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Standard Terminology Relating to Flexible Barrier Materials¹

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acid foods—foods that have a natural pH of 4.6 or below.

aseptic—as applied to aseptic packaging, synonymous with commercially sterile.

aseptic packaging—filling of a commercially sterilized product into presterilized containers, followed by hermetic sealing in a commercially sterile atmosphere.

barrier—any material limiting passage through itself of solids, liquids, semisolids, gases, vapors, or forms of energy such as ultraviolet light.

biological evaluation test (biotest)—a test which involves exposure of sealed packages to biological indicators and is designed to determine the microbiological integrity of a package under the specific conditions of the test.

coextrusion—*in flexible barrier materials*, (1) a process whereby two or more plastic streams are forced simultaneously through one or more shaping orifices to become one continuously-formed multilayered structure. (2) Also, the product resulting from such a process.

commercial sterility—*of thermally processed food*, the condition achieved by application of heat, ~~sufficient~~, alone or in combination with other appropriate treatments, to render the food free of microorganisms capable of growing in the food at normal nonrefrigerated conditions at which the food is likely to be held during distribution and storage.

delamination—the separation of layers in a multilayered structure.

dispersion coating—*in flexible barrier materials*, (1) a process of applying a material, suspended or dispersed in a vehicle, to a surface in such a way that a continuous, coalesced, adherent layer results when the vehicle liquid (usually water) is evaporated. (2) Also, the product resulting from such a process.

extrusion coating—*in flexible barrier materials*, (1) a process of extrusion whereby a molten extrudate adheres to the surface of another (solid) material, forming a continuous layer upon cooling. (2) Also, the product resulting from such a process.

flexible—easily hand-folded, flexed, twisted, and bent.

DISCUSSION—“Flexible” may be a characteristic of thin barrier materials, especially when thinner than 5 to 10 mils, that are composed of materials that are otherwise classified as “rigid” or “semi-rigid” under the definitions concerning rigidity based on modulus of elasticity (see Terminology D 883,

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