

Cellulose triacetate product for use in membrane applications

In 2013, Eastman discontinued the wood pulp-based cellulose triacetate (CTA) CA-436-80S, a CTA sold mostly for photographic and optical films but also for membrane applications. Eastman switched to cotton linters to make the replacement CTA called M300. The old CTA and the new cotton-based CTA have the same % acetyl and very similar MWD. From a technical standpoint, the new M300 is a superior product because wood pulp used for the old CTA has a higher amount of mannose and xylose, which can result in higher color and viscosity variability.

Table 1. Typical properties of the old CTA and M300

| Properties | CTA | M300 |
|----------------|------|------|
| % xylose | 0.48 | 0.08 |
| % mannose | 0.58 | 0.08 |
| MWn | 79K | 82K |
| Polydispersity | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| % acetyl | 43.6 | 43.6 |
| ASTM D color | 69 | 33 |
| ASTM D haze | 4.7 | 4.0 |



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