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Dual functionality anti-reflection and biocidal coatings

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Abstract

A thin film combination of anti-reflection (AR) and biocidal properties would be of particular interest to reduce the transfer of infection and improve readability of public high use touch screens. In this paper we describe the development of a dual functionality film of silica (AR) and copper oxide (biocidal). Deposition was via flame assisted chemical vapour deposition (FACVD) which has the advantages of being a cost efficient atmospheric pressure technique enabling use of non-volatile precursors and that no closed reaction cell is required so making it ideal for integration into industrial production lines. The resulting films were characterized by a range of techniques including optical spectroscopy, electron microscope and X-ray fluorescence. Biocidal behavior was tested by determining the kill rate of *Escherichia coli*.

A 3 layer stack on glass of silica/copper oxide/silica had better adhesion and lower reflection than a comparable 2 layer stack. This multilayer film led to a > 2% drop in reflection from that of uncoated glass, similar to that of silica only film. In addition, showed $a > 6 \log 10$ kill between 6 and 24 h for as deposited and annealed samples.

Keywords: biocidal, anti-reflection, APCVD, Silica, copper oxide

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