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AEROSPACE & INDUSTRY

Q: Can the elastomers used in isolators be supplied in different colors?

A: Many Hutchinson products are molded in black elastomer and color coded with paint dots or stripes to enable visual differentiation between various elastomer material and stiffness options that otherwise have the same geometry and physical appearance. Why not mold the isolators with elastomers of different color to distinguish them? It would more clearly show the distinction, and can't chip or flake like paint.

The challenge is that most elastomers commonly used in isolators, like Natural Rubber, Chloroprene (Neoprene), Nitrile, and Butyl, are organic based and use carbon black as a reinforcing filler. This filler greatly enhances the durability, strength, and other mechanical properties needed for a robust isolator design. Even though the elastomer raw gum stock might be a light color, like beige, cream, or white, the amount of carbon black required in the mix dictates the final color of the compound, which of course is black. So an alternative method of color coding, such as paint dots, is employed and is effective for most applications.

Inorganic elastomers like silicone and fluorosilicone are an exception. They do not use carbon black as a reinforcing filler in the compound, so dyes can be added to make them almost any color and shade - including black. Popular colors for Hutchinson silicone isolators are green, gray and blue.

If your isolator application has a unique requirement for color coding, or other visual identification, please contact us to discuss possible options

Black Rubber Isolators with paint dot color codes

Silicone Isolators with different color elastomers

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