

AkzoNobel mTA:

The green alternative for anti-caking in road salt



AkzoNobel

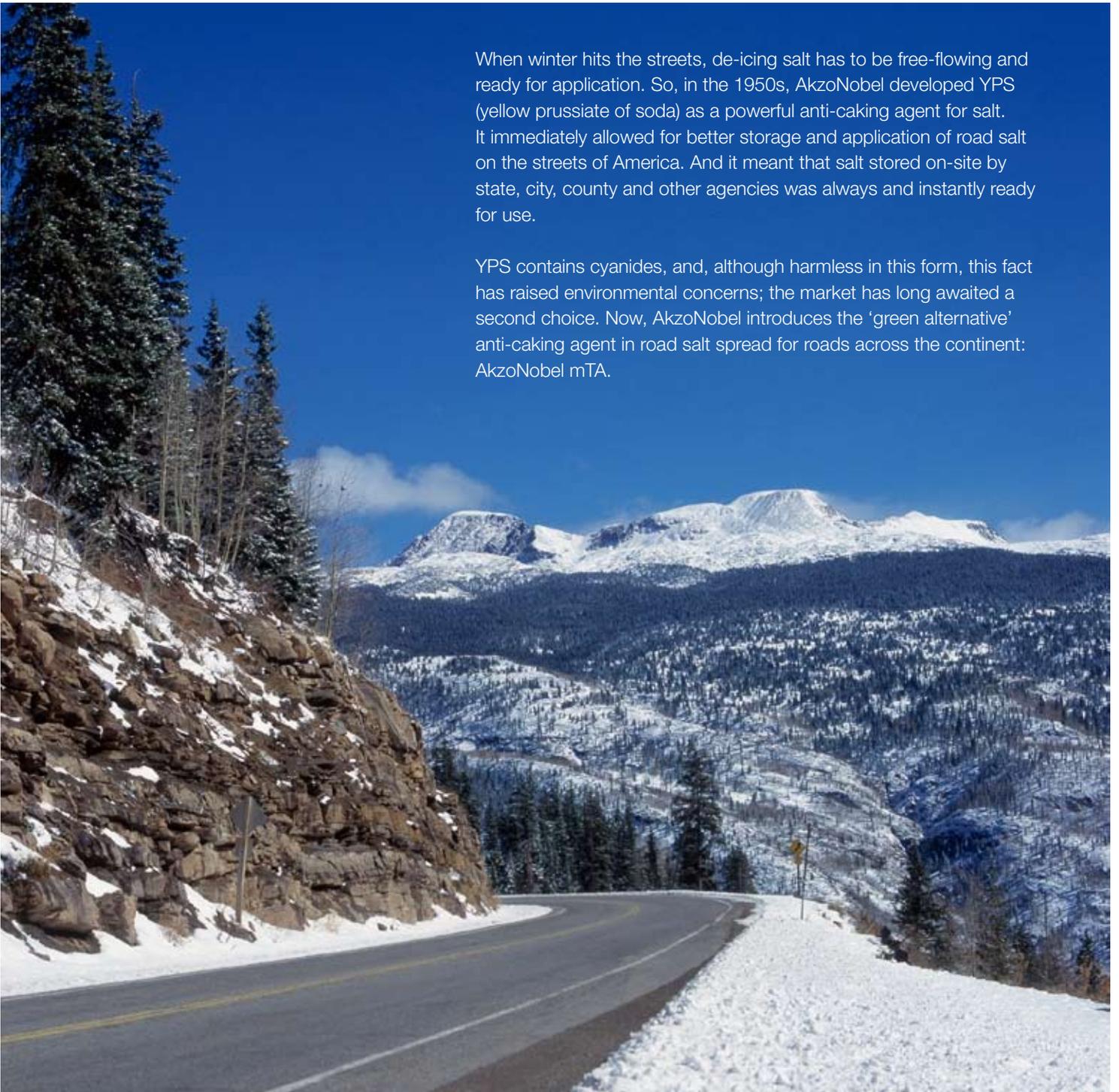
Tomorrow's Answers Today



The green alternative for anti-caking in road salt: mTA

When winter hits the streets, de-icing salt has to be free-flowing and ready for application. So, in the 1950s, AkzoNobel developed YPS (yellow prussiate of soda) as a powerful anti-caking agent for salt. It immediately allowed for better storage and application of road salt on the streets of America. And it meant that salt stored on-site by state, city, county and other agencies was always and instantly ready for use.

YPS contains cyanides, and, although harmless in this form, this fact has raised environmental concerns; the market has long awaited a second choice. Now, AkzoNobel introduces the 'green alternative' anti-caking agent in road salt spread for roads across the continent: AkzoNobel mTA.





Setting new standards

YPS is still the standard option for all situations where caking of salt needs to be prevented. However, true to our motto **“Tomorrow’s Answers Today”**, AkzoNobel recognized that our customers increasingly expect products that are more environmentally responsible.

So, we challenged our technological people to invent a product that would match the performance of YPS while addressing environmental concerns. After many years of science and testing, the result is AkzoNobel mTA – the viable, cyanide-free and ‘green’ alternative to YPS.

AkzoNobel mTA has been developed and used for salt in industrial applications in Holland for the last five years. During this period, more than five millions tons of salt have been manufactured with use and benefit of the AkzoNobel mTA formulation. Now it is time for the next step – to make the benefits of AkzoNobel mTA available for road de-icing salt.

Natural product

AkzoNobel mTA is a combination of tartrates and iron. Tartrate is a natural substance that occurs in, for example, tamarinds, black pepper and pineapples. Because of its taste and its preserving capabilities, it is widely used as an additive in food preparations such as ice cream, cakes and pastries. Crucially, in combination with iron, tartrates modify the structure of salt crystals. It is in this way that AkzoNobel mTA prevents caking.

AkzoNobel mTA is an entirely biodegradable specialty chemical. Once it enters soil or water, it quickly decomposes. So, no need to worry about potential ground or water contamination by de-icing salt additives via runoff from salt storage piles or application on the roads.

Improving your spreading efficiency

The application in de-icing salt is currently in the testing phase. Preliminary results with vacuum salt indicate multiple benefits:

1. Superior spreading performance compared to salt treated with standard anti-caking agents. Indeed, initial results show improved road surface retention of the salt, thus yielding increased spreading efficiency.
2. Storage stability: tests show that it can be easily handled after several months of storage.
3. Spreading: no adjustments to current spreading equipment are required.

More information?

AkzoNobel mTA will soon become commercially available. Please send us an e-mail at Roadsalt@AkzoNobel.com, and we will inform you first about the latest developments around this ‘green alternative’ anti-caking agent.



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