Continental Structural Plastics

C7 Corvette Skin – Outer Body Panels

Continental Structural Plastics (CSP) supplies the doors, fenders, quarter panels and hatch on the 2014 C7 Coupe; and the doors, fenders, quarter panels and deck lid on the C7 Convertible. These Class A body panels are all manufactured utilizing our propriety mid-density Tough Class A SMC (TCA Lite®) for the outer panels. Using TCA Lite® results in a 9 percent weight savings per component on the vehicle as compared to those made with previous standard density SMC formulations.

- The proprietary TCA Lite® material – an 850 mid-density SMC – is formulated with crush-resistant glass microspheres in place of heavier calcium carbonate. This enables a reduction in part weight without compromising mechanical or surface qualities.

- TCA Lite is a lower density alternative to CSP’s highly successful Tough Class A SMC. The density is reduced by modifying the filler package to replace higher density calcium carbonate in part with crush resistant hollow glass microspheres.

- This SMC alternative is approaching aluminum’s cost and weight reduction capabilities, making it an attractive alternative to OEMs as they look for ways to reduce overall vehicle weight. Because it is a Class A surface, it is ideal for any vehicle body panel, especially for those platforms with production volumes under 200,000 units per year.

- TCA Lite offers significant advantages over aluminum, including reduced tooling costs, improved design flexibility, and corrosion and damage (dent) resistance. In addition, it can be molded to deeper pockets and achieve sharper styling feature lines that can’t be achieved in stamping operations.