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(54) Title: RETORT PACKAGING PROCESS AND PRODUCT UTILIZING HIGH-TEMPERATURE ABUSE LAYER AND LOW-TEMPERATURE ABUSE LAYER

(57) Abstract: A process of preparing a retorted packaged product, comprises: (A) placing a product in a packaging article comprising a multilayer packaging film heat sealed to itself, (B) sealing the article closed so that the product is surrounded by the multilayer packaging film; and (C) heating the packaged product to a temperature of at least  $212^{\circ}F$  for a period of at least 1 hour. The multilayer packaging film comprises: (i) a crosslinked first outer layer which serves as an outer layer and product-contact layer; (ii) a crosslinked second outer layer which serves as an outer skin layer; (iii) an  $O_2$ -barrier layer between the first outer layer and the second outer layer, the high-temperature- abuse layer comprising a polymer having a  $T_g$  of from  $50^{\circ}C$  to  $125^{\circ}C$ ; and (v) a first low- temperature-abuse layer between the first outer layer and the second outer layer, the low-temperature-abuse layers comprising a polymer having a  $T_g$  of up to  $15^{\circ}C$ . The invention also pertains to a retorted packaged product packaged in the film utilized n the process of the invention.



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