GAMMA IRRADIATION – A METHOD OF RECYCLING POLYMERIC MATERIALS

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Rezumat. Procesarea cu radiații a polimerilor are multe avantaje tehnice și de mediu. Poluarea scăzută și consumul redus de energie necesare procesarii cu radiatii a polimerilor, împreună cu potențialul său în reciclare, o face o tehnologie verde. Modificarea structurii polimerice a materialului plastic poate fi adusă fie prin mijloace chimice convenționale, fie prin expunerea la radiații de ionizare. În timpul procesului de iradiere se produc urmatoarele fenomene: ramificarea lanțului polimeric, reticularea, degradarea sau clivajul. Aceste fenomene coexistă și depind de mai mulți factori precum structura moleculară inițială și morfologia polimerului și mediul de iradiere i.e. doza de iradiere, debitul dozei de iradiere, prezența sau absența oxigenului. Această lucrare oferă o privire de ansamblu asupra posibilităților de reciclare a polimerilor folosind iradierea gamma.

Abstract. Radiation processing of polymers has many technical and environmental advantages. The low pollution and low energy consumption of radiation processing of polymers, along with its potential in polymer recycling makes it a green technology. Modification in polymeric structure of plastic material can be brought either by conventional chemical means or by exposure to ionization radiation. During the irradiation process the following phenomena occurs: chain branching, cross-linking, degradation or cleavage. These phenomena coexist and depend on several factors such as the initial molecular structure and morphology of the polymer and the irradiation environment i.e. irradiation dose, irradiation dose rate, presence or absence of oxygen. This paper provides an overview of the polymer recycling possibilities using gamma irradiation.

Keywords: gamma radiation, recycling, polymers, degradation

1. Introduction

During the irradiation process the following phenomena occurs: chain branching, cross-linking, degradation or cleavage. These phenomena coexist and depend on several factors such as the initial molecular structure and morphology of the polymer and the irradiation environment i.e. irradiation dose, irradiation dose rate, presence or absence of oxygen. Different polymers have different responses to radiation, especially when it comes to crosslinking vs. chain scission. "G" value notation is used to quantify the chemical yield resulting from the radiation

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