

STUDY OF FLAME RESISTANCE FOR ADDITIVES – CONTAINING EPOXY AND POLYESTER

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Abstract:

In this paper, additives dechlorane plus which used synergistically with sodium-orthophosphate and with alumina, sodium-orthophosphate, and alumina have been used as a flame retardants for unsaturated polyester and epoxy resin. The additives were used at low and high levels with unsaturated polyester and they were used at high levels with epoxy resin. At low levels, the additives were used in weight percentages of (1,3,5,7 and 10)%, At high levels, They were used in weight percentages of (15,20,25,30 and 35)%. Hand –lay up was used to prepare the specimens. The paper showed that the additives have good effectiveness in reducing the burning at high weight percentages and they appeared high effectiveness in resisting the flame when they were used as a synergistic flame retardants.

Keyword: unsaturated polyester, epoxy resin, flame retardants, synergism.

1- Introduction:

Epoxies and polyesters are studied for use in many applications such as aircraft because they have a number of properties, These properties include: excellent mechanical properties, low cost and ease of processing [1]. Thermosetting polymers have high flammability when they exposed to fire. Flammability of thermoset resin was shown in the following comparison [2] :

Vinylester and unsaturated polyester > Epoxy > Bismaleimide > Polyimide > Phenolic

The fire resistance of these polymers can be improved by incorporating of flame retardants into polymeric materials as an additive and as a part of the polymeric chain. Flame retardants resistant the fire during the degradation or after ignition [3]. Phosphorus was incorporated within the backbone of the epoxy resin and not used as additives [4]. Many studies were achieved in the field flame retardance of polymers; Ngakan et al studied used diammonium phosphates (DAP) to resistance flammability of thermoplastic reinforced with natural fibers [5]. Charuchinda et al used sodium polyphosphate and chitosan to improve the durability of the flame retardance in the cotton fabric and increasing the LOI (Limiting oxygen index) values from 17 to 19 when compared to the untreated cotton fabric [6]. HOH et al used dechlorane plus (DP) as a chlorinated flame retardant in grand lakes [7]. Simon Ningsun Zhou et al used dechlorane plus (DP), dechlorane 602, dechlorane 603 and dechlorane 604 as a flame retardants in humans [8]. Edward d. Weil et al used dechlorane plus in low smoke formulations, They use dechlorane plus and 5-10% Antimony oxide as synergist with polyimide 6 and glass reinforced polyimide 6, they used dechlorane plus with glass reinforced polyimide 66 [9]. Robin

J. LAW et al used dechlorane plus and 17 brominated diphenylether (BDE) as a flame retardant in the blubbere of harbor[10].Minodora Leca et al used ammonium phosphate , ammonium polyphosphate and alumina trihydrated with law sodium with melamine as a fire retardant coatings [11].Joseph et al employed phosphorus as areactive component with epoxy and study the flammability and mechanical properties of the samples[12].Patrick Lim et al found that the flammability performance of intumescent ammonium polyphosphate (APP) filled epoxy/ glass fibers composites is better compared with melamine cyanurate (MC) [13].

2- Methodology and sample preparation:

The 2-1 Materials:

polymers used in this study include : Epoxy resin and polyester resin. Three types of additives were used as the flame retardants for polymers These additives are : Sodium-orthophosphate Na_3PO_4 (supplied from BRITISH house dunags B.D.H in powder form as shown in Figure A) , Dechlorane plus $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_{12}$ (supplied from GERMANY in powder form as shown in Figure C) and Alumina Al_2O_3 (in powder form as shown in Figure B)



Figure(1) A)Sodium-orthophosphate Na_3PO_4
B) Alumina Al_2O_3
C) Dechlorane plus $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_{12}$

2 -2 Samples preparation:

The samples from polyester and epoxy resin with every additive and with sodium-orthophosphate/dechlorane plus and alumina /dechlorane plus synergistically were prepared.The cast specimens was used in dimensions(15cm × 15cm × 0.3cm).The test specimens were cut in dimensions(12.5cm × 1.3cm × 0.3cm) .

2-3Determination methods:

The flammability of polyester and epoxy with the additives was determined according to ASTM D635 method .In this method, the sample is ignited in horizontal position with flame.The flame is removed after 30 sec and the sample is allowed to burn ,if the flame speed

continues beyond 10cm the burning rate is reported ,if the flame extinguishing was occurred before the flame reaches the 10cm mark the time of extinguish and the burned distance are reported , then the rate of burning is reported in this case , the sample has self – extinguish ,if the flame extinguishes after removing the flame ,Not burning of the sample is reported[14] .

3- RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Test results for the additives with unsaturated polyester at low weight percentages are shown in Tables : (1-5) and Figure (2) , They showed that the additives don't affect as a flame resistance and they appeared low degree of flame retardancy to polymers when they were used synergistically. At high weight percentages with unsaturated polyester and epoxy resin, the additives impact high degree of flame retardancy to the polymers as shown in Tables : (6-15) and Figures:(3) and (4) . Among the three classes of additives , the dechlorance plus appeared to be the most effective flame retardant , dechlorane plus caused flame extinguishment at 30% ratio and not burning at 35% ratio with unsaturated polyester , it caused not burning at 30% ratio with epoxy . Sodium orthophosphate and alumina led to self – extinguishing at 35% . The addition of flame retardants synergistically to the polymers appeared high efficiency in reduce flammability of polymers. It can be seen from variation of flame spread with weight percentages of additives that the synergistic effect of sodium orthophosphate with dechlorance plus caused auto – extinguishment at 25% ratio with unsaturated polyester and at 20% ratio with epoxy . Not burning occurred at 30% ratio with unsaturated polyester and at 25% ratio with epoxy . It is noted that the self – extinguishing occurred at 35% ratio when dechlorance plus and alumina were used synergistically with polymers . Phosphorus compounds and halogen flame retardants act in the condensed phase by promoting the formation of carbonaceous char and in the gaseous phase by diluting the flammable gases [15]. During combustion of polymers the Alumina remain in condensed phase and forms a protective barrier on the polymer surface , shield it against further decomposition [16].

Table (1) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Sodium-orthophosphate

Additive%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
R.B cm/ min	3.219	3.00	2.927	2.792	2.629	2.586
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	10

Extent of Burning

AEB= Average

Table (2) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Dechlorance plus

Additive%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
R.B cm/ min	3.219	2.898	2.799	2.790	2.567	2.469
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	10

Extent of Burning

AEB= Average

Table (3) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Alumina

Additive%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
R.B cm/ min	3.219	2.940	2.927	2.768	2.564	2.540
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	10

Extent of Burning

AEB= Average

Table (4) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with (Sodium-orthophosphate + Dechlorance plus)

Additive%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
R.B cm/ min	3.219	2.422	2.362	2.351	2.213	2.190
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	10

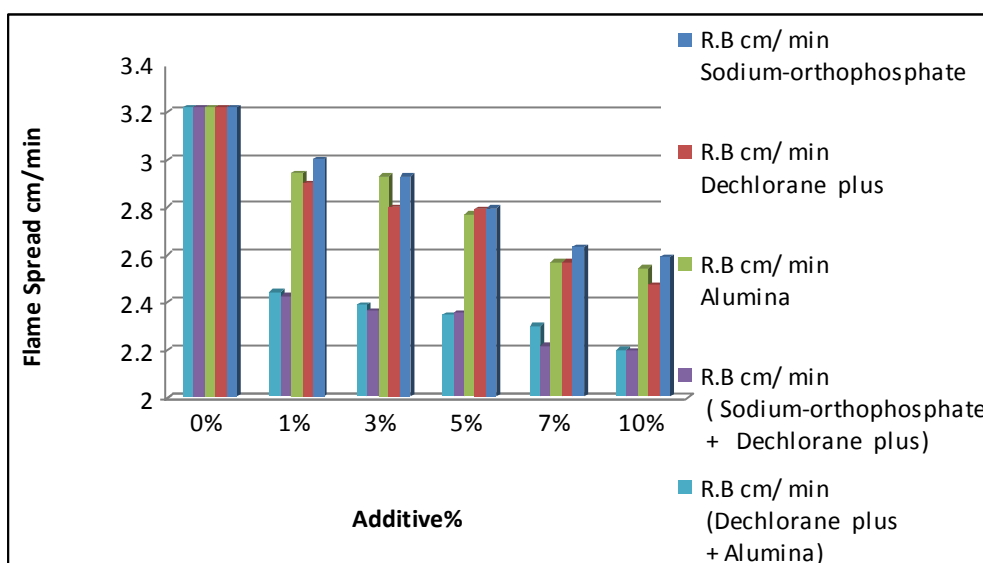
AEB= Average Extent of Burning

Table (5) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with (Dechlorance plus + Alumina)

Additive%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
R.B cm/ min	3.219	2.440	2.385	2.342	2.297	2.196
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	10

Average Extent of Burning

AEB=



Figure(2) Variation of flame spread with Weight percentages of additives For UPE

Table (6) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Sodium-orthophosphate

Additive%	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	3.219	2.575	2.186	2.020	1.844	0.714
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	1.4(S.E)

S.E = self extinguishing

Table (7) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Dechlorance plus

Additive%	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	3.219	2.229	1.708	1.456	1.383	-
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	N.B

N.B = not burning

Table (8) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with Alumina

Additive%	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	3.219	2.419	1.969	1.699	1.468	1.315
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	5(S.E)

S.E = self extinguishing

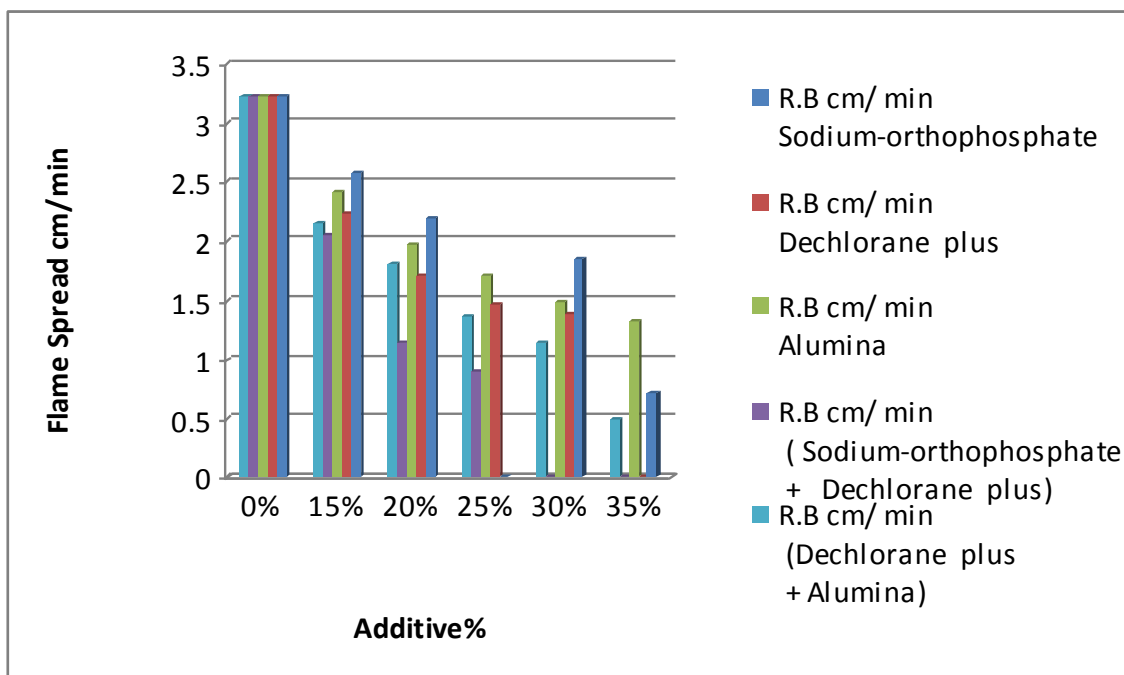
Table (9) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with (Sodium-orthophosphate + Dechlorance plus)

Additive%	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	3.219	2.042	1.138	0.884	-	-
AEB cm	10	10	4.5 (S.E)	2.2 (S.E)	N.B	N.B

Table (10) Rate of burning (R.B) test for UPE with(Dechlorance plus + Alumina)

Additive%	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	3.219	2.137	1.792	1.350	1.140	0.487
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	3(S.E)

S.E = self extinguishing



Figure(3) Variation of flame spread with Weight percentages of additives for UPE

Table (11) Rate of burning (R.B) test for EP with Sodium-orthophosphate

Additive	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	2.631	2.524	1.985	1.753	1.627	0.325
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	7(S.E)

S.E = self extinguishing

Table (12) Rate of burning (R.B) test for EP with Dechlorane plus

Additive	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	2.631	2.266	1.507	1.122	-	-
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	N.B	N.B

N.B = not burning

Table (13) Rate of burning (R.B) test for EP with Alumina

Additive	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	2.631	2.309	1.856	1.647	1.450	0.513

AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	3.3(S.E)
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S.E = self extinguishing

Table (14) Rate of burning (R.B) test for EP with (Sodium-orthophosphate + Dechlorance plus)

Additive	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	2.631	1.777	0.437	-	-	-
AEB cm	10	10	1.8 (S.E)	N.B	N.B	N.B

N.B = not burning

Table (15) Rate of burning (R.B) test for EP with (Dechlorance plus + Alumina)

Additive	0%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
R.B cm/min	2.631	2.006	1.822	1.328	1.128	0.489
AEB cm	10	10	10	10	10	3.6(S.E)

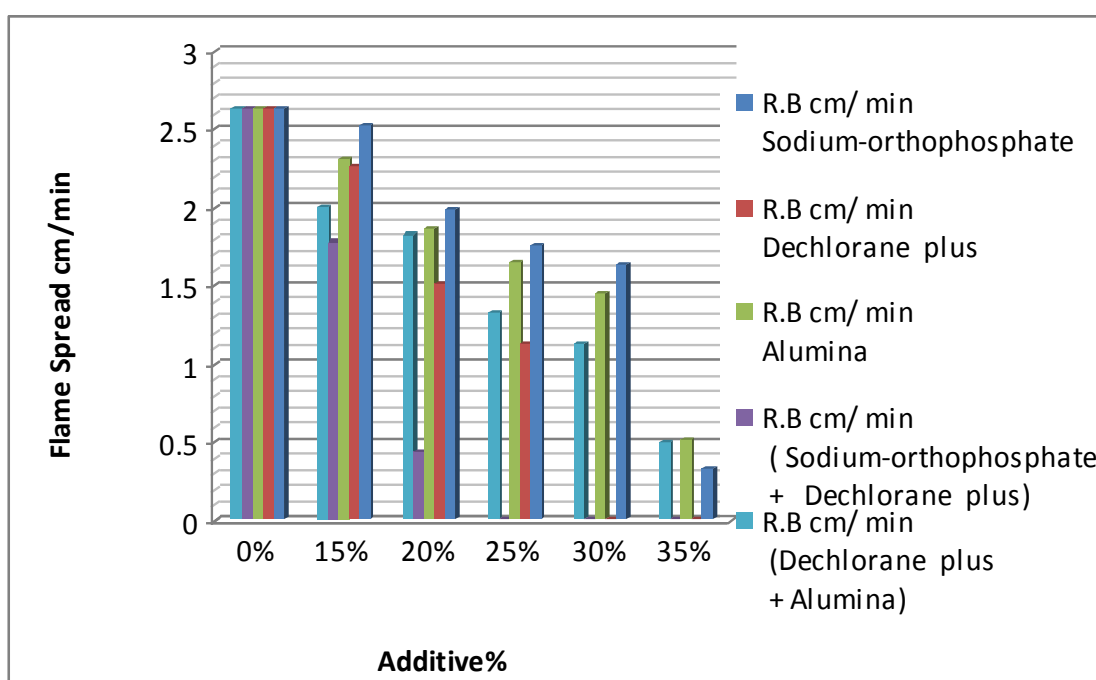


Figure (4) Variation of flame spread with weight percentages of additives for EP

4- conclusions :

Good fire retardation was obtained from using the additives at high weight percentages, not burning occurred when dechlorane plus was used at weight percentage 35% with unsaturated polyester and at weight percentage 30% with epoxy. Hybrid additives-containing polymers performed high efficiency in resisting the flame. Self-extinguishing occurred when sodium orthophosphate and dechlorane plus were used synergistically at 20% with UPE and EP, Not burning happened at 30% with UPE and at 25% with EP.

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دراسة مقاومة احتراق بوليمرات الايبوكسي والبولي استر التي تحتوي على المضافات

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خلاصة

في هذا البحث تم دراسة تأثير بعض المضافات مثل اورثو- فوسفات الصوديوم وديكلوران بلس والالومينا على احتراق بوليمرات الايبوكسي والبولي استر المشبع كما تم دراسة تأثير هذه المضافات تهجينيا مع بعضها على احتراق البوليمرات . لقد اضيفت هذه المضافات بنسب مئوية معينة الى البوليمرات و استخدمت طريقة الصب اليدوي في تحضير عينات الفحص . اظهرت نتائج الفحص ان تأثير هذه المضافات على مقاومة احتراق البوليمرات كان ضعيفا جدا عند النسب المئوية الواطنة لكنها اظهرت تأثيرا كبيرا عند النسب المئوية العالية وخاصة عند استخدامها تهجينيا .