

INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP

Polymer Dispersion Working Group: Annual Report 2013

Report No: IBRG/PD/14/002

Date: March 2014

The Polymer Dispersion Group held two meetings during 2013; in Prague in March and Athens in October. A draft paper for publication on the statistical validation of the Group's test method was presented and discussed and preliminary results on a collaborative experiment to investigate the growth of yeasts in a model polymer dispersion were presented.

John Gillatt of Thor Specialities (UK) Ltd continued to perform the role of Chair but Kornelia Brett of Ashland Inc. had to stand down as Technical Secretary and a replacement is being sought. The assistance of Kyle Allison of IMSL and Kevin Roden of Thor Specialities as Acting Technical Secretaries is noted with grateful thanks.

During the year, two meetings of the group took place. The twenty fifth meeting was held in April 2013 at The Vila Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic attended by 19 participants with Kevin Roden of Thor Specialities as Acting Technical Secretary and the twenty sixth meeting took place at the Callirhoe Hotel, Athens, Greece with 18 delegates present and Kyle Allison of IMSL taking the role of Acting Technical Secretary. It was noted that the Group is in need of a permanent Technical Secretary.

The primary aim of the Group continues to be the development of a standard method which could be used within the scope of the EU Biocidal Products Regulations (BPR) as an efficacy test for biocides used in polymer dispersions and similar materials and for evaluating the performance of biocides in such products. In addition, the remit of the Group includes investigating the biodeterioration of polymer dispersions in general and other relevant, related issues.

To date the former Polymer Emulsion Project and the Polymer Dispersion Group have completed eight collaborative experiments, some with several phases and the results of the eighth will form the basis of a paper for publication. During the period of this report the data generated from the eighth collaborative experiment has been statistically analysed and confirms the Group's method for evaluating biocides in polymer dispersions to be robust, repeatable and reproducible. A draft paper for publication has been produced and it is anticipated that, after discussion and amendment by the Group, it will be submitted for publication in the current year.

A small, "informal" collaborative experiment has been carried out to investigate the growth of yeasts in the Group's model polymer dispersion and some results from that study were reported at the Athens meeting. However, the results so far have not been encouraging and the Group will discuss how best to proceed with this project.

The Group's test method (*A Method for the Evaluation of Biocidal Compounds in Aqueous-Based Polymer Dispersions Internal Version 5.5, April 2010, document IBRG/PD10/004*) was updated to version 5.7 in September 2013 and continues to be available for revision at each of the Group's meetings.

It is hoped that by the spring 2014 meeting the draft paper for publication will be completed and a plan for work to further investigate the growth of yeasts, and later moulds, will be developed.

John Gillatt:
Kyle Allison

Chair of the IBRG Polymer Dispersion Group
Acting Technical Secretary of the IBRG Polymer Dispersion Group