INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP

Polymer Dispersion Working Group: Annual Report 2015

Report No: IBRG/PDG/16/005 Date: April 2016

The Polymer Dispersion Group held two meetings during 2015; in Kendal, UK and then in Prague, Czech Republic. John Gillatt of Thor Specialities (UK) Ltd continued to perform the role of Chair with Kyle Allison of IMSL, acting as Technical Secretary for both meetings.

The 29th meeting was held in April 2014 at the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal, UK which was attended by 25 participants The 30th meeting took place in October at The Vila Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic at which 23 delegates were present.

The meeting in Prague was John Gillatt's last as an active member and he therefore stands down as chair of the polymer dispersions group. His input to all of the group meetings was incredibly insightful and useful and his energy and enthusiasm for IBRG activities was instrumental in moving many industry standards forward. He is greatly thanked for his contribution to all of the groups. At this time there is no permanent successor for the role of Chairperson for the polymer dispersions group.

The primary aim of the Group continues to be the development of standard methods which can 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.

A collaborative experiment to investigate the growth of yeasts in a model polymer dispersion has been agreed upon using a number of organisms submitted by participants. Growth of these in the dispersed powder polymer will be explored by multiple laboratories to determine appropriate species for further ring tests to support BPR requirements.

The Group's test method (*The Evaluation of Biocidal Substances and Products in Aqueous-Based Polymer Dispersions*, currently document IBRG PD16/006) was separated into two standards. A method for industry and a method for BPR regulatory submission. The industry method continues to be available for revision at each of the Group's meetings but, especially in respect of recent amendments will hopefully be considered complete and available for publication at the Spring 2016 meeting.

In 2015, the Journal of International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation published the IBRG Polymer Group paper - *The Microbial Resistance of Polymer Dispersions and the Efficacy of Polymer Dispersion Biocides – a Statistically Validated Method*, Gillatt, Julian, et. al and is available in International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation 104 (2015) 32 - 37.

Kyle Allison Technical Secretary of the IBRG Polymer Dispersion Group