Accepted Manuscript

Title: Dielectric behaviour of montmorillonite/cyanoethylated cellulose nanocomposites

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S0144-8617(17)30574-X http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.carbpol.2017.05.057 CARP 12343

To appear in:

Reference:

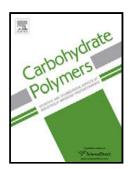
PII:

DOI:

Received date:	15-1-2017
Revised date:	8-5-2017
Accepted date:	18-5-2017

Please cite this article as: Madusanka, Nadeesh., Shivareddy, Sai G., Eddleston, Mark D., Hiralal, Pritesh., Oliver, Rachel A., & Amaratunga, Gehan A.J., Dielectric behaviour of montmorillonite/cyanoethylated cellulose nanocomposites. *Carbohydrate Polymers* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.carbpol.2017.05.057

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Dielectric behaviour of montmorillonite/cyanoethylated cellulose

nanocomposites

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Highlights

- A novel dielectric CRS- MMT nanocomposite was prepared.
- At 1 kHz high \mathcal{E}_r of 71, 55 and 42 with 5, 10 and 15% weight of MMT respectively.
- Low leakage current densities (10⁻⁶ -10⁻⁷ A/cm²).
- Leakage pathways are associated with MMT nanoplatelets embedded in CRS.

Abstract

A dielectric nanocomposite based oncyanoethylatedcellulose (CRS) and MMT nanoclay was successfully prepared with different weight percentages (5%, 10% and 15%) of MMT. MMT nanoplatets obtained via sonication of MMT nanoclay in acetone for a prolonged period was used in the preparation of CRS-MMT nanocomposites. CRS-MMT thin films on SiO₂/Si wafers are used to form metal-insulator-metal (MIM) type capacitors. At 1 kHz CRS-MMT nanocomposites exhibited high dielectric constants (\mathcal{E}_r) of 71, 55 and 42 with low leakage current densities ($10^{-6} - 10^{-7}$ A/cm²) for nanocomposites with 5%, 10% and 15% weight of MMT respectively, higher than values of pure CRS (21), Na-MMT(10). Reduction of \mathcal{E}_r with higher MMT loading can be attributed to a network formation as evidenced via strong bonding interactions between CRS and MMT leading to a lower molecular mobility. The leakage is studied using conductive atomic force microscopy (C-AFM) indicates that leakage pathways are associated with MMT nanoplatelets embedded in the CRS polymer matrix.

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