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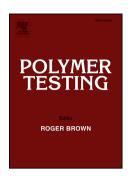
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Extruded composites of poly(vinyl chloride) blown under microwave irradiation

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Keywords: Poly(vinyl chloride); Composites; Foaming process; Microwave irradiation; Thermal runaway; Cellular structure

Abstract

New foaming method, enhanced by microwave irradiation, was elaborated and applied to obtain porous poly(vinyl chloride) and its composites with fine cell structure. The so called "thermal runaway" effect was observed during the heating of poly(vinyl chloride) under microwave irradiation. The temperature of this effect decreases as a result of additives incorporation into polymer matrix. Microwave irradiation allowed effective heating of extruded poly(vinyl chloride) and its composites with carbon black (CB) filler, behind the extruder head and decomposing azodicarbonamide (ADC) to obtain porous products. The use of CB additive to poly(vinyl chloride) significantly increased its ability to be heated under microwave irradiation as well as improved the cell structure and decreased the apparent density of final products.

Among additionally used fillers (1wt.%) the montmorillonite caused the apparent density decrease of foamed materials ca. 10%, however beneficially influenced on the quality of cells structure, giving the products with isotropic cells and the highest cell density as well

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