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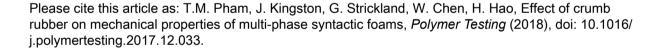
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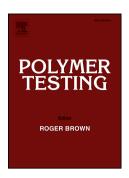
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effect of Crumb Rubber on Mechanical Properties of Multi-phase

Syntactic Foams

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8 Abstract

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- 9 Syntactic foam is a lightweight and strong material which can be used in marine and 10 aeronautical applications. However, the brittleness of the material limits its application to a broader range. Adding crumb rubber to the syntactic foam can increase its energy absorption 11 capacity. The effect of crumb rubber on the fracture toughness and energy absorption capacity 12 of 2-phase and 3-phase syntactic foam is evaluated under both static and impact loads. The 13 experimental results have shown that the fracture toughness of the 2-phase rubberized 14 syntactic foam increased by 8% while an increase of 22% of its fracture energy was observed. 15 Under quasi-static loads, the 3-phase rubberized syntactic foam showed decreases in the 16 compressive strength and elastic modulus but an increase in the energy absorption capacity as 17 compared to the syntactic foam without crumb rubber. In addition, the impact energy 18 19 absorption of the 3-phase rubberized syntactic foam increased by 24% as compared to that of the 3-phase syntactic foam without crumb rubber. 20
- 21 **Keywords**: Syntactic foam; Impact behaviour, Energy absorption; Fracture toughness; Crumb
- rubber.

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