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Phan Huy Nguyen, Steven Spoljaric, Jukka Seppälä

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Redefining polyamide property profiles via renewable long-chain aliphatic segments: Towards impact resistance and low water absorption

Phan Huy Nguyen, Steven Spoljaric, Jukka Seppälä

Polymer Technology, Department of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering,
Aalto University, Kemistintie 1, 02150 Espoo, Finland

Correspondence to: Steven Spoljaric (email: steven.spoljaric@aalto.fi)

ABSTRACT

A series of renewable, long-chain, fatty acid-derived polyamides (PA) ranging from PA 6,14 to PA 6,18 were synthesized via polycondensation, yielding very high molecular weights and a remarkable property profile distinct from short-chain commercial grades. Most notably, synthesized polyamides exhibited good impact resistance, excellent stiffness-to-toughness balance and very low water absorption yet high oxygen and water vapour permeability; with this property profile being exemplified by PA 6,18. The increased repeating unit length and reduced number of amide linkages able to participate in interchain hydrogen bonding imparted a strong influence on material properties. The data highlights the benefits and technical advantages of utilising long-chain polyamides, while also significantly expanding the repertoire, knowledge and property profile of the long-chain aliphatic polyamide family, and providing a basis for further development of polyamides from renewable sources.

KEYWORDS

Polyamide, molecular weight, renewable, impact strength, water absorption

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