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Title: Thermal behavior of an engineered fuel and its constituents for a large range of heating rates with emphasis on heat transfer limitations<!--query id="Q1"> “Your article is registered as a regular item and is being processed for inclusion in a regular issue of the journal. If this is NOT correct and your article belongs to a Special Issue/Collection please contact [g.pratap@elsevier.com](mailto:g.pratap@elsevier.com) immediately prior to returning your corrections.”</query-->

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PII: S0040-6031(14)00554-1  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.tca.2014.12.007>  
Reference: TCA 77095

To appear in: *Thermochemica Acta*

Received date: 23-9-2014  
Revised date: 8-12-2014  
Accepted date: 9-12-2014

Please cite this article as: Odile Vekemans, Jean-Philippe Laviolette, Jamal Chaouki, Thermal behavior of an engineered fuel and its constituents for a large range of heating rates with emphasis on heat transfer limitations, *Thermochemica Acta* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tca.2014.12.007>

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1     **Thermal behavior of an engineered fuel and its constituents for a large range of heating**  
2     **rates with emphasis on heat transfer limitations**

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9     **Highlights**

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11     • Devolatilization of a waste derived fuel and its constituents was studied via TGA.  
12     • Heating rate (HR) ranged from 5 to 400°C/min.  
13     • At HR greater than 100°C/min, we observed a bias in TGA results.  
14     • The bias at high HR appeared to be due to heat transfer limitation.  
15     • We developed a heat transfer model to correct such limitations in TGA samples

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17     **Abstract**

18     Engineered fuels (EF) manufactured from waste can be an advantageous substitute for coal or  
19     other fossil fuel in (co-)combustion, gasification or pyrolysis processes. Unfortunately, because  
20     of their heterogeneity, the thermal behavior of such fuels can often be complex, limiting their  
21     application. In the present study, the pyrolysis of a heterogeneous commercial EF composed of  
22     fibers and plastics was investigated using a TGA apparatus over a large range of heating rates  
23     (from 5 to 400°C/min). At a heating rate of 5°C/min, the EF devolatilization curve was simply a  
24     proportional sum of the devolatilization curves of its individual components. When the heating  
25     rate was increased up to 100°C/min, however, a shift in the devolatilization TG curve of the  
26     fibers, plastics and EF to higher temperatures was observed as a consequence of heat transfer  
27     limitations within samples. Furthermore, differences between the proportional sum of the  
28     devolatilization curves of the individual components of the EF and its experimental curve were  
29     observed, and increased with increasing heating rates up to 400°C/min. A model was developed  
30     to correct for heat transfer limitations by considering thermal phenomena such as heat transfer  
31     limitations between the TGA and the sample, change in sample heat capacity and effect of  
32     endothermic reactions on sample temperature. This model predicted the shift of EF  
33     devolatilization towards higher temperature with increasing heating rates, which suggests that no  
34     significant chemical effects occurred between the EF components.

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36     **Key words:** Engineered fuel; Refuse derived fuel; wastes; TGA; devolatilization; heat transfer  
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