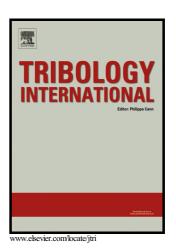
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

A new approach on grease tribology in sealing technology: Influence of the thickener particles

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Abstract

Tests on the influence of different grease thickeners on the operational behavior were performed using both, a ring-on-disc set up and a test rig for radial shaft seals. Friction coefficients, wear and seal pumping were measured and correlated with the size and shape of the thickener particles. It could be shown, that thickener particles are present in the sealing gap and are influencing the performance of the sealing system.

Keywords: Lubricating grease, thickener, sealing technology, soft contact

1. Introduction

Radial shaft lip type seals according to [1] are widely used as oil seals. Their operational behavior and sealing mechanism were examined by various authors and therefore is comparatively well understood. The sealing lip is lubricated with a thin oil film during operation [2]. This soft elastohydrodynamic lubrication is driven by a micro-hydrodynamic elevation of pressure at the roughness asperities of both, sealing lip (elastic solid) and counter face (rigid solid) [3]. The low contact pressures in the sealing contact are not affecting the lubricant

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