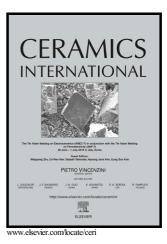
Author's Accepted Manuscript

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 PII:
 S0272-8842(18)30272-4

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2018.01.246

 Reference:
 CERI17378

To appear in: Ceramics International

Received date: 10 January 2018 Accepted date: 29 January 2018

Cite this article as: T. dos Santos, F.G. Pinola, Ana P. Luz, C. Pagliosa and V.C. Pandolfelli, Al₂O₃-MgO refractory castables with enhanced explosion resistance due to *in situ* formation of phases with lamellar structure, *Ceramics International*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2018.01.246

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Al₂O₃-MgO refractory castables with enhanced explosion resistance due to *in situ*

formation of phases with lamellar structure

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Abstract

This work evaluated an alternative route (formic acid addition and *in situ* generation of hydrotalcite phases) to reduce the explosion trend of dense MgO-bonded refractory castables during their drying step. Aqueous suspensions containing different magnesia sources (caustic or dead-burnt) and hydratable alumina were firstly analyzed in order to identify the likelihood of generating these *in situ* compounds with a lamellar structure in mixtures prepared with and without formic acid (hydrating agent). After that, high-alumina vibratable castables containing MgO and this carboxylic acid were evaluated and the following experimental tests were carried out: thermogravimetry, mechanical strength evaluation, apparent porosity and hot elastic modulus measurements. According to the obtained results, the thermal decomposition of the formed hydrotalcite-like phases led to samples' mass loss over a broader temperature range, preventing their explosion even when a critical heating rate (20°C.min⁻¹) was

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