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DYNAMIC SHEAR RHEOLOGICAL BEHAVIOUR OF PP/EPR IN-REACTOR ALLOYS SYNTHESIZED BY MULTI-STAGE SEQUENTIAL POLYMERIZATION PROCESS

Yousef Jahani, Hamed Bagheri, Mehdi Nekoomanesh, Shokoufeh, Hakim, Zhiqiang Fan,

Engineering, Iran Polymer and Petrochemical Institute

bagheri_hs@yahoo.com

The rheological behaviour, morphology and mechanical properties of in-reactor alloy of Polypropylene (PP)/Ethylene Propylene Rubber (EPR) synthesized by multi-stage sequential polymerization process are studied. The relationship between polymerization parameters, morphology and rheological properties are evaluated by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and small amplitude oscillation rheometry in the linear viscoelastic region. The electron microscopy of samples is showed that by increasing switching frequency in polymerization time, the size of EPR particles decrease. By increasing switching frequency the curves of complex viscosity against angular frequency of samples are shifted to higher values at low range of shear rates with no significant change at higher frequencies in Power-law region. The modified Cole-Cole plots revealed the enhanced melt elasticity by increasing switching frequency up to 230°C. The plot of phase angle versus absolute value of complex modulus G* is used for the evaluation of matrix-droplets interaction at various temperatures. It is observed two different behaviors before and after 230°C which is the evidence of the change in relaxation mechanism of the blend components due to coarsening the rubber particles in the phase separation process.