Powercam Electricals Private Limited (PEPL)

Technical Notes

Thermoplastics, Thermoset Composite Insulating Materials

& their Moulding Techniques

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1. Introduction:

Plastic is a synthetic material made from polymers, which are large molecules composed of repeating subunits. These forms can be liquid or paste like resins for embedding, coating, and adhesive bonding, or they can be moulded, laminated, or formed shapes, including sheet, film, or larger-mass bulk shapes. It can be moulded into various shapes and forms, making it a versatile material widely used in electrical insulation, packaging, construction, and many other industries. Powermat uses two type of polymer, thermoplastic and thermoset plastics.

Thermoplastic: Plastics that can be deformed easily upon heating and can be bent easily. Linear polymers and a combination of linear and cross-linked polymers come under thermoplastics. Example: PVC, nylon, polythene, etc.

Thermosetting: Plastics that cannot be softened again by heating once they are moulded. Heavily cross-linked polymers come under the category of <u>thermosetting plastics</u>. Example: Bakelite, melamine, Sheet Moulding Compound & Dough Moulding Compound.

2. Thermoset Composite Material & its Moulding Technique

Composites are defined as "a combination of plastic resin and fibre reinforcement." Another term for composites is used in the past is reinforced plastics.

2.1 Sheet Moulding Compound:

Sheet moulding compound (SMC) or **sheet moulding composite** is a ready to mould glassfibre reinforced polyester material primarily used in compression moulding.^[1] The sheet is provided in rolls weighing up to 100 kg. Alternatively, the resin and related materials may be mixed on site when a producer wants greater control over the chemistry and filler.

2.2 Process:

Sheet Moulding Compound (SMC) is a compression moulding compound often used for larger parts where higher mechanical strength is needed. SMC is a fibre reinforced thermoset material. Glass reinforcement is between 10% and 50%, and glass length is slightly longer than Dough Moulding Compound (DMC) - between 1/2-inch and 1-inch (25mm).



Thermoset Sheet Moulding Compound

(SMC) is a mixture of polymer resin, inert fillers, fiber reinforcement, catalysts, pigments and stabilizers, release agents, and thickeners and possesses strong dielectric properties. Manufacture of sheet moulding compounds is a continuous in-line process. The material is sheathed both top and bottom with a polyethylene or nylon plastic film to prevent auto-adhesion. The paste is spread uniformly onto the bottom film. Chopped glass fibers are randomly deposited onto the paste. The top film is introduced and the sandwich is rolled into a pre-determined thickness. The sheet is allowed to mature for 48 hours. Sheet moulding compounds can be moulded into complex shapes. Superior mechanical properties and surface appearance, plus excellent electrical insulation make this thermoset material ideal for automotive Class A body panels, high-strength electrical parts, business equipment cabinets, personal watercraft, and various structural components.

2.3 Dough Moulding Compound:

Dough Moulding Compound (DMC) is a thermoset plastic resin blend of various inert fillers, fiber reinforcement, catalysts, stabilizers, and pigments that form a viscous, 'puttylike' moulding compound. DMC is highly filled and reinforced with short fibers. Glass reinforcement represents between 10% and 30%, with glass length typically between 6mm to 12mm. Depending on the end-use application, dough moulding compounds are formulated to achieve close dimensional control, flame and track resistance, electrical insulation, corrosion and stain resistance, superior mechanical properties, low shrink, and colour stability. Its excellent flow characteristics, dielectric properties, and flame resistance make this thermoset material well-suited to a wide variety of applications requiring precision in detail and dimensions as well as high performance.

2.4 Process

Basic raw materials are resins, additives, catalysts, mould release agents and fillers. For coloured compounds, a pigment is added to the paste. The paste is then mixed with fibres, usually glass fibres. Bulk Moulding Compound (BMC) is prepared in a mixer. After preparing a base paste it will be loaded into the mixing device. Then all other ingredients are added and

homogenized. The compound is packed into bags until moulding. To avoid any material changes during storage and transport it is packaged in a styrene tight packaging.

2.5 Process Used for Moulding SMC & DMC Composite Materials

Compression Moulding require following components:

- **2.5.1.** Component raw materials SMC is available in Sheet form; DMC is available in dough form & Metal inserts if required.
- 2.5.2. Mould with desired shaped cavity

Top Plate Spacer block Punch-back plate Punch plate	PUNCH SIDE
Punch insert	CAVITY SIDE
cavity back plate 00000	-holes for cartridge heaters - Ejector pins - Elector hack
Bottom plate	Plate
General construction Compress	of ion Mould.

2.5.3. Moulding Machine The machine is the fundamental element of this process. A compression moulding machine is like a power press except power press have a



fast operation and do not stay for more time at stroke. CM machines stay for a predetermined time when actuated. It is more like a UTM machine. According to the shape and volume of the finished product, machine tonnage is decided. We have machines from 25 ton to 500 ton.

2.5.4. Process Flow:

- a. Heating the Mould (temperature 165 deg C maximum)
- b. Placing the material in the cavity & close the mould.
- c. Curing Reaction depends on the shape & volume of the raw material.
- d. Mould opening & Ejection.
- e. Cleaning the Mould for next operation.
- f. Post moulding operation for deflashing.



- g. Quality check of molded products
- h. Packing and dispatch

3. Thermoplastic Material & its Moulding Technique

All the plastic materials which can be softened and melted by heating, but they set again when cool are called thermoplastics.

Many thermoplastic polymers are reinforced with fibres. Reinforcement is used to improve physical properties – specifically heat deflection temperature. Glass fibres are the most used reinforcing material. The wear resistance and abrasion resistance of thermoplastic polymers are improved using aramid reinforcing. Although fibres can be used with any thermoplastic polymer, the following are the most important.

- Polyamide polymers use glass fibres to control brittleness. Tensile strengths are increased by a factor of three, and heat deflection temperature increases from 150 to 500°F.
- Polycarbonate compounds using 10, 20, 30 and 40% glass fibre loading have their physical properties greatly improved.
- Other polymers benefiting from the addition of glass fibres include polyphenylene sulfide, polypropylene and polyethersulfone.

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3.1 Process Used for Moulding Thermoplastic Materials

The thermoplastic injection moulding process starts with the addition of pellets to a hopper. Thereafter, the material is passed through a heated barrel where the rotation of the screw initiates a shearing action causing the pellets to melt. The material is pushed at high pressure such that the mold cavities are filled. Once the cooling cycle ends, the mold is opened to release the molded parts manufactured by thermoplastic injection moulding process.



3.2 Steps:

Injection moulding requires following component.

- a. Clamping unit is described in terms of machine tonnage.
- b. Mould for the desired shape
- c. Injection Unit for injecting the molten material into the mould.
- d. Dwelling and cooling unit allows the molten material to settle & holding pressure is used to replace injection pressure in this step to compact the molten plastic during its solidification.
- e. Ejection Process, the cooled part is separated from the mould in this stage.
- f. Trimming process, the last stage where the excess cooled plastic material is trimmed from the finished part.

4. Difference between Thermoplastic Injection Moulding & Thermoset Mouldings

Thermoplastic Injection Moulding vs. Thermoset Moulding

The way thermosets are made differs from thermoplastics in several aspects, and both the categories require varied treatment during the injection moulding process. Included below are a few differences when moulding thermosets and thermoplastics.

Thermosets	Thermoplastics
When producing parts, the cold material is injected	When producing parts, the plastic material is melted
into a hot mold	and injected into a mold
Can't be remolded or reshaped	Can be remolded and recycled
Forms a permanent chemical bond	100% reversible, as no chemical bonding takes place
	during the process
Comparatively difficult to surface finish	Thermoplastics result in accurate, flexible, and pleasing
	surface finishes
Does not require high heat and high pressure	Requires high heat and high pressure
compared to thermoplastics moulding	
Thermosets are made by condensation	Thermoplastics are made by additional polymerization
polymerization	
The production process includes compression,	The production process includes injection moulding,
transfer, and casting	extrusion, and blow moulding
Some of the end products that come from	Some of the end products that come from
thermosetting injection moulding include: Handles of	thermoplastic injection moulding include: Vacuum
tools, billiard balls, insulation, computers parts,	cleaners, toys, machine screws, gear wheels, kettles,
television parts, any electronic equipment, gardening	packaging film, sacks, power tool casings, toasters, gas
equipment, tools, sprockets, and cooking utensils	pipes, and fittings
Disadvantages of thermosets are: unable to be	Disadvantages of thermoplastics are: they are
recycled, and they release emissions referred to as	expensive, easily melt when heated, and are hard to
volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	prototype

5. Testing on Moulded Parts

Following testing is done on the moulded products on regular basis in accordance with the international & national standards & the criterion of acceptance is to achieve or exceed the defined values. **(See Appendix 1-6)**

1. Mechanical testing includes:



Figure 1 Universal Testing Machine

- a. Cantilever / Bending Testing
- b. Tensile / Pulling Testing
- c. Torque Strength
- d. Shear Testing
- e. Compressive Strength

2. Electrical Testing includes Breakdown Voltage



Figure 1 CTI Tester

- a. Insulation Resistance
- b. Impulse withstands Voltage.
- c. Comparative Tracking Index

3. Flammability Testing Includes:



Figure 1 GWIT Test



Figure 2 Impulse Tester

Figure 2 Heat Deflection Tester

- a. Glow Wire Flammability Index
- b. Glow Wire Ignition Test
- c. Flammability Test as per UL 94
- d. Heat Deflection Temperature Test



Figure 2 Torques Tester



Figure 3 Compressive Strength

6. Applications

In view of their excellent features and benefits, these materials will continue to be used for many demanding applications.

- Electrical & Electronics (mechanical integrity and electrical insulation)
 Low voltage and medium voltage energy systems
- Mass Transportation (light weight and fire resistance)
 Train, tram interior and body parts Electrical components Track switch components Under the hood components for trucks.
- Automotive & Truck (low fuel emissions through weight reduction)
 Light weight body panels for vehicles Lighting systems, headlamp reflectors and LED lighting
 Structural parts, front ends, etc.
- Domestic Appliances (manufacturing in large volumes)
 Iron heat shields Coffee machine components Microwave ware White goods components, grips, and handles Pump housings as metal substitution Motor housings as metal substitution.
- Engineering (strength and durability)
 Functional parts in mechanical engineering as metal substitution Pump components for various media Sport equipment, golf caddy Safety products for leisure and public application

Summery and conclusion

Powercam electricals Pvt. Ltd. is a global producer and supplier of SMC and DMC, and their products, particularly in the fields of electrical insulations under the brand name POWERMAT. To ensure provide the highest quality of insulator to their customers, company continuously involve in the research and development of the products. Multi-level quality check has carried out from raw material to finish product.







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Last Updated on 2022-11-25

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Doc. TDS/PD20/001 Issue:00, Rev.00 Dated:08/04/2023

Technical Data Sheet for Dough moulding compound (DMC)-PD20

Material Data Sheet -PD20						
SN	Properties	Test Methods	Values			
1	Specific Gravity	D-792	1.9			
2	Glass Contents (%)	N/A	20			
3	Water Absorption(24hrs) %	D-570	0.15			
4	Tensile Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-638	400			
5	Flexural Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-790	900			
6	Impact Strength Izod (J/m)	D-256	250			
7	Compressive Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-695	1500			
8	Dielectric Strength (KV/mm)	D-149	10			
9	Comparative Tracking Index (Volts)	BS-5901	>600			
10	ARC Resistance (Secs.)	D-495	180			
11	FLAMMABILITY INDEX	UL-94	V-0			
12	Glow Wire Test(°C)	IEC-60695-2-11	960			
13	Hot Wire Ignition Test (Secs.)	D-3874	>120			
14	RTI , Str (°C) (Thickness-3mm)	UL-746B	130			
15	RTI, Elect. (°C) (Thickness -3mm)	UL-746B	105			
16	High Voltage Arc Tracking Rate(mm/min)	UL-746A	0 through 10			
	High Amp Arc Ignition (mean no. of					
17	arcs)	UL-746A	>120			
18	Material Group	IEC-60112	1			
19	Pollution Degree	IEC-60950	3			
20	Insulation Class	as per NEMA	В			
21	Working Temp (°C)	-	(-) 40°C to 130° C			

Note: - The data and information are given only as a guide and are not binding, no guarantee of their authenticity can therefore be assumed in all situations. The company reserve the rights to modify the features without prior notice in view of continued improvement and development.



Doc. TDS/PS25/001 Issue:00, Rev.00 Dated:08/04/2023

Technical Data Sheet for Sheet moulding compound (SMC)-PS25

Material Data Sheet -PS25						
SN	Properties	Test Methods	Values			
1	Specific Gravity	D-792	1.7			
2	Glass Contents (%)	N/A	25			
3	Water Absorption(24hrs) %	D-570	0.2			
4	Tensile Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-638	700			
5	Flexural Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-790	1550			
6	Impact Strength Izod (J/m)	D-256	600			
7	Compressive Strength (Kgf/cm2)	D-695	1800			
8	Dielectric Strength (KV/mm)	D-149	12			
9	Comparative Tracking Index (Volts)	BS-5901	>600			
10	ARC Resistance (Secs.)	D-495	180			
11	FLAMMABILITY INDEX	UL-94	V-0			
12	Glow Wire Test(°C)	IEC-60695-2-11	960			
13	Hot Wire Ignition Test (Secs.)	D-3874	>120			
14	RTI, Str (°C) (Thickness-3mm)	UL-746B	130			
15	RTI, Elect. (°C) (Thickness -3mm)	UL-746B	105			
16	High Voltage Arc Tracking Rate(mm/min)	UL-746A	0 through 10			
	High Amp Arc Ignition (mean no. of					
17	arcs)	UL-746A	>120			
18	Material Group	IEC-60112	1			
19	Pollution Degree	IEC-60950	3			
20	Insulation Class	as per NEMA	В			
21	Working Temp (°C)	-	(-) 40°C to 130° C			

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