

CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.	Nanotechnology	26
1.1	Nanotechnology-global outlook	26
1.2	Nanomaterials and nanosized dimensions	30
1.3	Classification	30
1.3.1	Nanoparticles	31
1.3.2	Nano platelets or layered silicates	33
1.3.2.1	Morphology-crystallography	34
1.3.2.2	Microstructure	37
1.3.2.3	Cation exchange	38
1.3.2.3.1	Cation exchange capacity	38
1.3.2.4	Surface charge density	39
1.3.2.5	Compatibilising agents	39
1.3.2.6	Nanoclay modifications	41
1.3.2.7	Nanoclay - physical constants	41
1.3.3	Nanofibres	45
1.3.4	Nanotubes	47
1.3.5	Nanofibrils	50
1.4	Preparation of nanomaterials	52
1.4.1	Major preparation methods	52
1.4.1.1	Wet chemical process	52
1.4.1.2	Mechanical process	53
1.4.1.3	Gas- phase synthesis	53
1.4.1.4	Form-in-place process	54
1.4.2	Micro-emulsion methods	55
1.4.3	Pyrolysis	57
1.4.4	Sol - gel processing	58
1.4.5	Forced hydrolysis and chemical co-precipitation	60

1.4.6	Chemical vapour deposition	61
1.4.7	Aerosol methods	62
1.4.8	Polyol method or Induced crystallization	63
1.5	Nanocomposites	64
1.5.1	Critical issues in nanocomposites	66
1.5.1.1	Dispersion	66
1.5.1.2	Alignment	66
1.5.1.3	Volume and rate	67
1.5.1.4	Cost effectiveness	67
1.5.2	Polymer nanocomposites	67
1.5.3	Polymers used in nanocomposites synthesis	68
1.5.3.1	Thermosets	68
	1.5.3.1.1 Epoxies	68
	1.5.3.1.2 Unsaturated polyesters	70
1.5.3.2	Thermoplastics	71
1.6	Synthesis of polymer-layered silicate nanocomposites	72
1.6.1	<i>In-situ</i> intercalative polymerization method	74
1.6.2	Intercalation of polymer or pre-polymer from solution	76
1.6.3	Melt-intercalation or melt blending method	77
1.6.4	<i>In-situ</i> formation of silicate layers	79
1.7	Thermoset nanocomposites	80
1.8	Characterization of polymer layered silicate nanocomposites	82
1.8.1	Structural characterization	83
1.8.1.1	XRD analysis	83
1.8.1.2	Transmission electron microscopy	84
	1.8.1.2.1 Correlation between XRD and TEM	84
1.8.1.3	Scanning electron microscopy	85
1.8.1.4	Fourier transform spectroscopy	85
1.8.2	Thermal characterization	86
1.8.2.1	Thermogravimetric analysis	86
1.8.2.2	Differential scanning calorimetry	87

1.9	Properties of polymer-layered silicate nanocomposites	87
1.9.1	Mechanical properties	88
1.9.1.1	Modulus	88
1.9.1.2	Tensile strength	89
1.9.1.3	Elongation at break	90
1.10	Barrier properties	91
1.10.1	Solvent resistance	91
1.10.1.1	Equilibrium swelling	91
1.10.2	Permeability	91
1.11	Thermal properties	93
1.11.1	Thermal stability	93
1.11.2	Flammability	95
1.12	Optical properties	95
1.13	Natural rubber based nanocomposites	96
1.13.1	Natural rubber	96
1.13.1.1	Compounding of natural rubber-dry stage	96
1.13.1.2	Compounding of natural rubber latex	98
1.13.2	Natural rubber latex nanocomposites	99
1.13.3	Nanocomposites from latex blends	106
1.14	Motivation and objectives of the present work	112
1.15	References	114
Chapter 2: Experimental		
2.1	Centrifuged natural rubber latex	144
2.2	Neoprene latex	144
2.3	Compounding ingredients	145
2.3.1	Sulphur (Rhombic type)	145
2.3.2	Zinc diethyldithiocarbamate (ZDC)	145
2.3.3	Zinc oxide	145
2.3.4	Dispersol F	145
2.3.5	Fillers	145

2.3.5.1	English Indian clay	145
2.3.5.2	Sodium bentonite	146
2.3.5.3	Sodium fluorohectorite	147
2.4	Preparation of dispersions	147
2.5	Prevulcanization of latex	148
2.6	Chloroform test	148
2.7	Brookfield viscosity (ASTM D 2526-229)	149
2.8	Mechanical stability apparatus	150
2.9	pH meter	150
2.10	Rheology measurements	150
2.11	Preparation of the vulcanizate	151
2.11.1	Film casting	151
2.11.2	Dipping process	152
2.12	Dynamic mechanical thermal analysis	153
2.13	Mechanical properties	153
2.14	Equilibrium swelling and crosslink density	154
2.15	Gas permeation analysis	156
2.16	Characterization of polymer- layered silicate nanocomposites	156
2.16.1	Structural characterization	157
2.16.1.1	X- ray diffraction	157
2.16.1.2	Transmission electron microscopy	157
2.16.1.2.1	Specimen preparation	159
2.16.1.3	Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	160
2.17	Degradation studies	161
2.17.1	UV-irradiation chamber	161
2.17.2	Gamma chamber	161
2.17.3	Ozone test chamber	162
2.17.4	Ageing oven	162
2.17.5	Autoclave	162
2.17.6	Chlorination	162

2.17.7 Swelling studies	163
2.18 Fourier infrared spectroscopy	163
2.19 Thermal characterization	163
2.19.1 Thermogravimetric analysis	163
2.20 Protein estimation	165
2.21 Bio-burden test	165
2.22 Development of latex Foley catheter	166
2.22.1 Development of compound formulation	167
2.22.1.1 Double centrifuged natural rubber latex	167
2.22.1.2 Other chemicals	168
2.23 References	170

Chapter 3: Sulphur prevulcanized natural rubber latex-based nanocomposites with layered silicates

3.1 Introduction	172
3.2 Results and discussion	174
3.2.1 XRD analysis	174
3.2.2 TEM analysis	175
3.2.3 Mechanical properties	177
3.2.4 Sorption behaviour	183
3.3 Conclusion	185
3.4 References	185

Chapter 4: Radiation prevulcanized natural rubber latex-based nanocomposites with layered silicates

4.1 Introduction	190
4.2 Materials and methods	191
4.3 Results and discussion	191
4.4 Conclusion	198
4.5 References	199

**Chapter 5: Rheological behavior of layered silicate
natural rubber latex nanocomposites**

5.1	Introduction	202
5.2	Results and discussion	203
5.2.1	Rheological measurements	206
5.2.2	Activation energy (E_a)	211
5.2.3	Zero shear viscosity (η_0)	213
5.2.4	Yield stress (τ_0)	214
5.2.5	Pseudoplasticity index (n)	215
5.3	Conclusion	217
5.4	References	217

**Chapter 6: Dipping characteristics of layered silicate-natural rubber
latex nanocomposites**

6.1	Introduction	222
6.2	Experimental	224
6.2.1	Dipping process	224
6.3	Results and discussion	225
6.3.1	Viscosity studies	225
6.3.2	Dipping studies	226
6.3.3	Tensile properties	232
6.4	Conclusion	233
6.5	References	234

**Chapter 7: Degradation behaviour of natural rubber layered
silicate nanocomposites**

7.1	Introduction	238
7.2	Results and discussion	239
7.2.1	Characterization of NR nanocomposites	239
7.2.1.1	XRD analysis	239

7.2.1.2	TEM and SEM analysis	240
7.2.1.3	TGA analysis	241
7.2.2	Degradation studies	243
7.2.2.1	Effect of hot air ageing	243
7.2.2.2	Heat ageing in autoclave	246
7.2.2.3	Exposure to γ - radiation	247
7.2.2.4	Exposure to UV- radiation	248
7.2.2.5	Effect of chlorination	249
7.2.2.6	Effect of solvent	250
7.2.2.7	Exposure to ozone	251
7.3	Conclusion	253
7.4	References	254

Chapter 8: Mechanical and morphological properties of natural/ chloroprene rubber latex blends nanocomposites

8.1	Introduction	259
8.2	Experimental	259
8.3	Result and discussion	260
8.3.1	The XRD studies of NR, CR and their blends nanocomposites	260
8.3.2	FTIR analysis of NR, CR and their blends nanocomposites	263
8.3.3	Swelling studies of NR, CR and their blends nanocomposites	265
8.3.4	NR and CR nanocomposites	268
8.3.5	NR/CR blend nanocomposites	272
8.4	Conclusion	275
8.5	References	276

Chapter 9: Design and development of Foley catheter from natural rubber latex nanocompound

9.1	Introduction	280
9.2	Result and Discussion	282
9.2.1	Optimization of catheter	282
9.2.1.1	Flow properties	282
9.2.1.2	Optimization of dipping conditions	284
9.2.1.2.1	Withdrawal rate of former	284
9.2.1.2.2	Immersion rate of the former	284
9.2.1.2.3	Dwell time	285
9.2.1.2.4	Concentration of coagulant	286
9.2.1.3	Optimization of dipping parameters	287
9.2.2	Preparation of catheter	288
9.2.2.1	Process flow chart	289
9.3	Conclusion	291
9.4	References	292

Chapter 10: Conclusions and future outlook

10.1	Conclusions	295
10.2	Future outlook	302