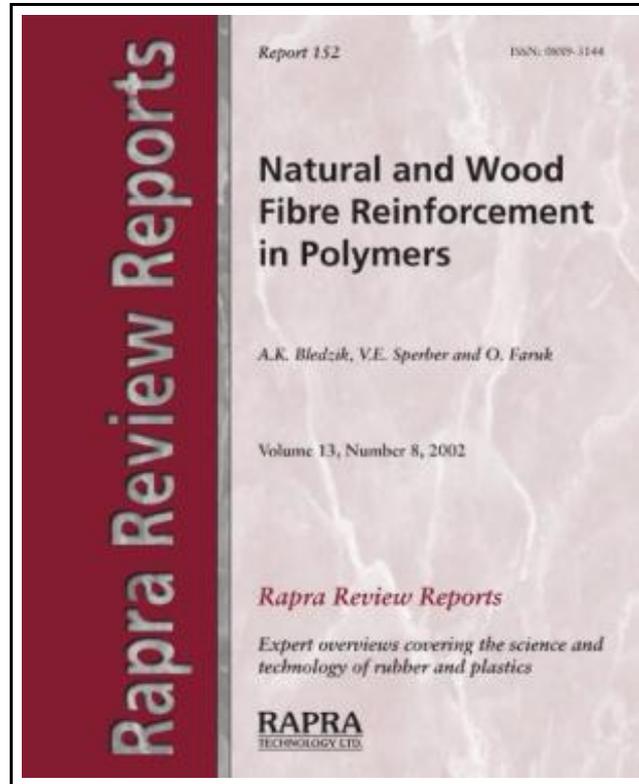


Natural Wood and Fibre Reinforcement in Polymers



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NATURAL WOOD AND FIBRE REINFORCEMENT IN POLYMERS



Ismithers Rapra Publishing, United Kingdom, 2002. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 154 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Natural fibres have been used to reinforce materials for over 3,000 years. More recently they have been employed in combination with plastics. One of the earliest examples (1950) was the East German Trabant car, the body was constructed from polyester reinforced with cotton fibres. Currently many types of natural fibre are being investigated for use in plastics including: flax, hemp, jute, straw, wood fibre, rice husks, wheat, barley, oats, rye, cane (sugar and bamboo), grass, reeds, kenaf, ramie, oil palm empty fruit bunch sisal, coir, water hyacinth, pennywort, kapok, paper-mulberry, raphia, banana fibre, pineapple leaf fibre and papyrus. Natural fibres have the advantage that they are renewable resources and have marketing appeal. Many, such as pineapple leaf fibre are natural waste products and hence available at minimal cost. However, there can be problems with the technical properties of reinforced materials - moisture absorption is generally high and impact strength is relatively low. The Asian markets have been using natural fibres for many years. For example, jute is a common reinforcement in India. Europe. In 1999 consumption was 21,300 tons and by 2000 this had risen to 28,300 tons. Packaging is a further application in Europe, particularly in Germany. In North America wood/polymer composites amount to a 300,000 ton/year market for use in building and garden products, particularly decking. Wood fibres can be subdivided into two types - hardwood and softwood. These have difference properties. Steam explosion is a common pretreatment for wood fibres as it can increase the specific surface and improve properties of composites, however it can also have a negative effect. A compatibiliser such as maleic anhydride can be more beneficial. This report examines the...



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