

the viscous properties of the base liquid only. Since the slip layer thickness must be related to the bubble size, knowledge of the bubble size distribution is clearly vital. Preliminary measurements (which are continuing) show that the slip layer thickness is well below the average bubble size, and compares with the diameters of the smallest bubbles present in any quantity (about the 10th percentile on diameter).

### Conclusions

Rheometer experiments showed that the flow of fire-fighting foam can be modelled by a modified Bingham Plastic system, with a liquid-rich slip layer at solid surfaces. The results from this model can be used to describe the flow of the same foam through pipes.

The consistency and flow behaviour index were found to be to a large extent independent of the flow rate and expansion ratio for the particular foams tested (although they could well be different for foams produced by other methods). The yield stress varied much more strongly with both flow rate and expansion ratio. This variation, it was concluded, must arise through differences in bubble size distribution.

The thickness of the slip layer depends on the expansion ratio and flow rate (bubble size distribution) of the foam, and also on the flow conditions. Further work is

in progress on the relationship between slip layer thickness and bubble size.

The slip layer thickness dominates the pipe flow behaviour over this range of shear rates.

There is a change in foam properties at expansion ratios around 5 which is probably related to the change from a spherical to a polyhedral geometry.

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