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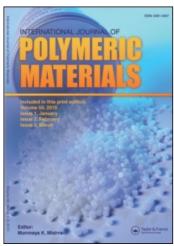
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## Letter to the Editor

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# Letter to the Editor

Sir

The results of the thermal analysis presented by Lezhnev and associates would have considerable bearing on the elucidation of the interaction between carbon black and elastomers if they could be confirmed and extended. These workers demonstrated that upon heating, mixtures of carbon black and SBR elastomer showed a marked exotherm at temperatures about 100°C. As neither the reversibility of this phenomenon on cooling, nor its appearance on heating a second time were mentioned, attempts were made to extend the study of this phenomenon.

Experiments were undertaken by the writer on a mill-mixed SBR/reinforcing black compound using a Du Pont 990 instrument, but surprisingly, no exotherm was observed. At his request, Dr. Goursot of the Centre de Recherches sur la Physico-Chimie des Surfaces Solides, Mulhouse, tried to observe the effect on a Perkin-Elmer DSC-2 at a variety of heating and cooling rates, but failed. A further attempt was made on a Du Pont 990 at the Décines Laboratory of Rhône-Poulenc, S.A. in which three mixes of identical composition were studied. One mix consisted of the black, dispersed in a solution of a solution-polymerized SBR, precipitated with methanol and vacuum-dried (A). The second sample was mix A, masticated in a Brabender mixer. The third sample was a mix prepared in a Brabender from dry components.

In none of the samples was the exotherm observed, and the behaviour of all three was substantially identical.

Z. RIGBI

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