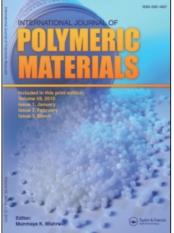
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Foreword

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Foreword

Flammability of Polymeric Materials

The relevance of polymer flammability is rapidly increasing with the widespread use of polymeric materials and their composites in large scale industrial applications. Here, damage caused by fires is increased by evolution of toxic fumes and other environmental and ecological problems. As with all critical technological problems, in this field we also are facing the old problem, namely that most successful approaches are kept secret, while the less important are published and sometimes even promoted. The papers selected for this issue of IJPM represent our attempt to overcome at least to some extent the gap between the published and patented technology in the field of polymer flammability, as it presently exists in Russia.

G. E. Zaikov and N. A. Khalturinskii Guest Editors, Moscow 117334 Russia, February 5, 1999.