

Environmental and technical advantages of using rubber seed oil, compared to soybean oil

© Elena M. Gotlib,^{1*} Nguyen Thi Lan Anh,^{1,2+} Ha Thi Nha Phuong,^{1,3}
Dmitry G. Miloslavskiy,¹ and Raisa A. Akhmedyanova¹

¹ Department of Synthetic Rubber Technology. Institute of Polymer. Kazan National Research Technological University. Karl Marx St., 72. Kazan, 420015. The Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.

Phone: +7 (843) 231-42-14. E-mail: egotlib@yandex.ru

² Faculty of Chemistry. Danang University of Technology and Science. University of Danang. Nguyen Luong Bang St., 54. Danang, Vietnam. E-mail: nguyen.lan.anh@mail.ru

³ Department of Chemistry. Viet Tri University of Industry. Tien Son St., 9. Viet Tri city, Phu Tho, Vietnam. E-mail: phuonghtn@vui.edu.vn

*Supervising author; †Corresponding author

Keywords: ecological advantages, soybean oil, higher fatty acids, rubber seed oil.

Abstract

Vegetable oils have a huge potential for application in the field of production of polymeric materials with a high complex of properties. In addition to commercially available and common soybean oil, perspective use in this field and rubber seed oil (RSO). This oil is already used for the production of soap, alkyd paints, fats for the leather industry, lubricants and is a successful alternative to diesel fuel.

However, the full potential of this oil is not used by industry due to the lack of technology and relevant information in this field. In particular, the use of RSO and its derivative – epoxidized rubber oil in elastomers and plastics has not been studied and has the scientific and practical interest.

We have justified the efficiency of using, from an ecological and economic point of view, rubber seed oil, as a modifier of epoxy materials, produced on the basis of renewable plant raw materials. Advantages of using RSO in comparison with soybean oil are described as cheaper in the countries of growth of *Hevea brasiliensis*, which is waste material of obtaining natural rubber, extracted from grains with higher oil content, not consumed by human for food, and not used in the production of animal feeds, due to the content of cyanogenic glycosides, which under the action of a specific enzymes are converted into cyanide. It is shown that the modification of RSO causes an increase of wear resistance and an improvement of the antifriction characteristics of epoxy compositions. The joint use of commercially available soybean oil and higher fatty acids provides a high modifying effect in epoxy compositions. The water resistance of epoxy coatings, modified RSO and soybean oil remains at a sufficient level for their effective industry use. Both types of the investigated vegetable oils reduce the content of the gel fraction of epoxy compositions, that is, reduce the degree of their cross-linking. In addition, they serve as active diluents that enhance the gel time of epoxy compositions.

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