

Contents

Preface	xiii
1 Polyoxymethylene: State of Art, New Challenges and Opportunities	1
<i>Sigrid Lüftl and Visakh P.M.</i>	
1.1 Scope	2
1.2 History	2
1.3 Commercial Significance	7
References	13
2 Polymerization and Manufacture of Polyoxymethylene	21
<i>Johannes Karl Fink</i>	
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Monomers	22
2.2.1 Formaldehyde	22
2.2.2 Trioxane	24
2.3 Comonomers	25
2.3.1 Ethylene Oxide	25
2.3.2 Propylene Oxide	25
2.3.3 Tetrahydrofuran	26
2.3.4 Dioxane Derivates	27
2.3.5 Branching Agents	27
2.3.6 Chain Transfer Agents	28
2.4 Polymerization and Fabrication	28
2.4.1 Anionic Polymerization	31
2.4.2 Cationic Polymerization	31
2.4.3 Catalysts in Detail	33
2.4.4 Undesired Side Reactions	34
2.4.5 Terminators	34
2.4.6 Homopolymers	36

2.4.7	Copolymers	37
2.4.8	Removal of Residual Monomers	40
2.4.9	Special Compositions	42
2.5	Special Additives	44
2.5.1	Antioxidants	44
2.5.2	Impact Modifiers	45
	References	46
3	Polyoxymethylene Additives	53
	<i>Emmanuel Richaud</i>	
3.1	Introduction	53
3.2	Antioxidants	54
3.2.1	Strategy of Stabilization to Inhibit Thermal Oxidation	54
3.2.2	Case of Hydroperoxide Reducers in POM	54
3.2.3	Case of Phenolic Antioxidants in POM	55
3.3	Compounds Reacting with Secondary Reaction Products	59
3.4	UV Stabilization	60
3.4.1	Generality on UV Stabilization	60
3.4.2	Performances of UV Stabilizers in POM	63
3.5	Impact Modifier	65
3.6	Nucleating Agent	67
3.6.1	Theoretical Recall on Crystallization of Polymers	67
3.7	Pigments and Dyes	72
3.7.1	Mineral Pigments	73
3.7.2	Organic Pigments and Dyes	74
3.7.3	Conclusion	74
3.8	Flame Retardants	75
3.8.1	Principles of Combustion	75
3.8.2	Strategies for Improving Flame Resistance	77
3.8.3	Examples of Flame Retardants in POM	77
3.9	Antistatic Agents	79
3.10	Lubricating Agents	80
3.11	Fillers	82
3.11.1	Effect of Fillers on Thermal Properties	82
3.11.2	Effect of Fillers on Mechanical Properties	84
3.12	Processing Aids	90
	References	91
	Appendix 3.1: List of Stabilizers	100

4	Polyoxymethylene Processing	107
	<i>Kinga Pielichowska</i>	
4.1	Introduction	107
4.2	Injection Molding	109
4.3	Melt Extrusion	116
4.4	Solid-State Extrusion	118
4.5	Extrusion Assisted by Supercritical Carbon Dioxide	120
4.6	Blow Molding	121
4.7	Others Methods	123
	4.7.1 Melt Blowing	123
	4.7.2 Compression Molding	124
	4.7.3 Rolling	125
	4.7.4 Sintering	126
	4.7.5 Spinning	129
4.8	Highly Oriented Products	132
4.9	Recycling of Production Waste	136
4.10	Finishing and Machining of POM	138
4.11	Conclusions	141
	References	142
5	Polyoxymethylene Applications	153
	<i>Lidia Tokarz, Slawomir Pawlowski and Michal Kedzierski</i>	
5.1	Introduction	153
5.2	Automotive Industry, Mechanical Engineering	156
5.3	Electrical and Electronic Industry, Fancy Goods	157
5.4	Medical Applications	158
5.5	Future Trends	160
	References	160
6	Structure and Morphology of Polyoxymethylene	163
	<i>Maria Raimo</i>	
6.1	Introduction	163
6.2	Crystalline Structure of POM: Orthorhombic and Hexagonal Phases	165
6.3	Crystal Structure Determination	170
6.4	Morphology of Orthorhombic and Hexagonal POM	173
6.5	Morphology of Rubber-Modified POM	179
6.6	Structure-Properties Relationships	181
	References	186

7	Crystal Structure and Crystallization Behavior of POM and its Microscopically-Viewed Relation with the Physical and Thermal Properties on the Basis of X-ray Scattering, Vibrational Spectroscopy and Lattice Dynamical Theory	193
	<i>Kohji Tashiro</i>	
7.1	Introduction	194
7.2	Crystal Structure Analysis of POM	195
7.2.1	Synchrotron X-ray Diffraction Analysis	196
7.2.2	Wide-Angle Neutron Diffraction Analysis	198
7.2.3	(29/16) Helical Model	201
7.2.4	Electron Diffraction of Whisker	203
7.3	Vibrational Spectra of POM	204
7.4	Structural Evolution in Isothermal Crystallization	207
7.5	Microscopically-Viewed Mechanical Property of POM	216
7.6	Conclusions	223
	Acknowledgements	224
	References	224
8	Physical Properties of Polyoxymethylene	227
	<i>Johannes Karl Fink</i>	
8.1	Introduction	227
8.2	Density	228
8.3	Hardness	230
8.4	Heat Capacity	231
8.5	Melt Flow	231
8.5.1	Tribological Properties	235
8.5.2	Whiskers	235
8.6	Water Absorption	235
8.7	Gas Permeability	236
8.7.1	Permeability to Fuels	237
8.8	Specific Absorption	238
8.8.1	Polychlorinated Biphenyls	238
	References	239
9	POM Mechanical Properties	241
	<i>Fahmi Bedoui and Bruno Fayolle</i>	
9.1	Short Term Properties	242
9.1.1	Elastic Properties	242
9.1.2	Properties at Failure	245

9.2	Long-Term Properties	249
9.2.1	Fatigue Properties	249
9.2.2	Chemical Degradation	250
9.3	Conclusion	252
	Acknowledgement	253
	References	253
10	Thermal Properties and Flammability of Polyoxymethylene	257
	<i>Vasiliki-Maria Archodoulaki and Sigrid Lüftl</i>	
10.1	Glass Transition and Melting Temperature	257
10.2	Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion	260
10.3	Thermal Conductivity and Specific Heat	260
10.4	HDT and Vicat	261
10.5	Thermo-Oxidative Degradation Behavior and Aging	261
10.6	Testing of Long-Term Heat Aging	266
10.7	Flammability	267
10.8	Hot Sterilization	270
	References	271
11	Chemical Resistance of Polyoxymethylene	277
	<i>Sigrid Lüftl and Emmanuel Richaud</i>	
11.1	Intoduction	277
11.2	Degradation and Oxidation Mechanisms in POM	278
11.2.1	Depolymerization	278
11.2.2	Acidolysis	279
11.2.3	Thermal Oxidation	280
11.2.4	Photothermal Oxidation	282
11.2.5	Conclusion on Polyacetal Degradation Mechanims	283
11.3	Resistance to Chemicals	283
11.3.1	Theoretical Recall on Polymer Interaction with Solvents	283
11.3.2	Typical Resistance of POM in Presence of Alkalis, Acids or Solvents	285
	References	295
12	The Electrical Response of Polyoxymethylene (POM)	301
	<i>D.A. Wasylyshyn</i>	
12.1	Introduction	301

12.2	Interactions between POM and Electromagnetic Waves	302
12.2.1	Dielectric Response of POM	302
12.2.2	Effects of Water on the Dielectric Response of POM	305
12.2.3	Dielectric Properties of POM-Based Composites	307
12.3	Interactions between POM and Arc Plasma	313
12.3.1	Low Energy Applications	314
12.3.2	High Energy Applications	316
	References	318
13	Electrical and Optical Properties of Polyoxymethylene	321
	<i>Natamai Subramanian Muralisrinivasan</i>	
13.1	Introduction	321
13.2	Electrical Properties	322
13.2.1	Conductivity	322
13.2.2	Dielectric Properties	322
13.2.3	Dielectric Loss Factor	323
13.2.4	Microwave Dielectric Measurements	323
13.2.5	Resistivity	327
13.2.6	Applications – Electrical Properties	327
13.3	Optical Properties	327
	References	329
14	Nanocomposites of Polyoxymethylene	331
	<i>Agnieszka Leszczyńska and Krzysztof Pielichowski</i>	
14.1	Introduction	331
14.2	Preparation and Structure of POM Nanocomposites with Different Nanoadditives	332
14.2.1	Methods of Fabrication of POM-Based Nanocomposites	332
14.2.2	Modification of Nanoparticles Towards Preparation of POM-Based Nanocomposites	335
14.2.3	Preparation and Structure of POM-Based Nanocomposites	339
14.3	Properties of Polyoxymethylene-Based Nanocomposites	347
14.3.1	Solid-State Phase Transitions and Polymer Morphology in Polyoxymethylene Nanocomposites	347

14.3.2	Mechanical Behavior of POM-Based Nanocomposites	354
14.3.3	Thermal Stability of POM Modified with Nanofiller	356
14.3.4	Tribological Properties and Wear Resistance of POM-Based Nanocomposites	364
14.3.5	Electrical Conductivity of Polyoxymethylene-Based Nanocomposites	373
14.3.6	Rheological Properties of Polyoxymethylene Nanocomposites	376
14.4	POM Blends as Matrices in Nanocomposite Materials	376
14.5	POM Nanostructures – Electrospun POM Nanofibers	381
14.6	Applications of POM-Based Nanocomposites and Future Trends	385
14.7	Conclusions	386
	List of acronyms	387
	References	388
15	Future, Environmental Impact and Suppliers	399
	<i>Takashi Iwamoto and Junzo Masamoto</i>	
15.1	Introduction	400
15.2	Developments and Specialty Resins	400
15.2.1	Performance Improvement by Copolymerization of Polyoxymethylene and Polymer Alloy Technology	400
15.2.2	Technology for Improving Heat Stability	412
15.3	Safety (Regulation and Approvals)	421
15.4	Environmental Impact	424
15.5	Suppliers and Commercial Grades	426
15.6	Future	426
	References	432
	Index	435