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Functional pigments and extenders for special application —

Part 3: Fumed silica for silicone rubber application

Pigments et matières de charges fonctionnels pour applications spéciales —

Partie 3: Silice fumée pour caoutchouc silicone

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Foreword

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A list of all parts in the ISO ISO 18473 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

Fumed silica (pyrogenic silicon dioxide) is one kind of pure amorphous white inorganic powder which has high specific surface area, nano-scale primary particle size resulting in a “stable/none destroyable” aggregated structure, and a relatively high (among silica products) concentration of surface silanol groups. The properties of fumed silica can be chemically modified by reaction with these silanol groups. Commercial available fumed silica can be divided into two groups: hydrophilic fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica. Because of the above-mentioned features, it is widely used as an important ingredient in many industries such as the rubber, paint and plastics industries. The major application for fumed silica is the silicone rubber industry.

Silicone rubbers exhibit excellent properties, such as flexibility at low temperature, good weather resistance, electric insulation, media resistance, physiological inertia, low surface tension and surface energy, which permit them to fulfil important needs in the market. However, these unique properties cannot be demonstrated effectively without reinforcing filler due to the low strength (< 0,4 MPa) of cured polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) which is the main component of silicones; therefore, silicone rubber usually contains reinforcing filler besides additive and curing agent. Fumed silica as one of the functional fillers, which is used widely in room temperature vulcanized silicone rubber (RTV), high temperature vulcanized silicone rubber (HTV) or high consistency vulcanized silicone rubber (HCR) and liquid silicone rubber (LSR), plays an important role in the strength, rheological and transparency properties of the silicone polymer. The testing methods for the dispersed fumed silica aggregate size and the silanol density, which both have obvious effects on the above properties of silicone rubber, are still being developed.