

DIRECCIÓN DE NUEVAS CREACIONES

SOLICITUD FASE NACIONAL - PCT

1 Título de la Invención(200 caracteres o espacios máximos)

PROCESO PARA PRODUCIR URETANO-ISOCIANURATOS

2 Datos del Solicitante / Titular

Nombre:	DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC	Dirección Electrónica:	notificaciones.patentes@roclaw.co
Dirección:	2040 Dow Center Midland, Michigan 48674	Domicilio/País de constitución:	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - MICHIGAN - MIDLAND

Identificación:

☐ CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA ☐ CEDULA DE EXTRANJERIA
☒ EMPRESA EXTRANJERA ☐ NIT
☐ PASAPORTE

Número: 1044040-

3 Solicitantes

	Apellidos - Nombres o Razón Social	Tipo	Identificación
1.	DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC	EE	1044040

4 Datos del Inventor

Nombre:	Kaoru AOU	Dirección Electrónica:	notificaciones.patentes@roclaw.co	
Dirección:	514 That Way #722, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US)	Domicilio/País de constitución:	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - TEXAS - LAKE JACKSON	
Identificación: ☐ CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA ☐ CEDULA DE EXTRANJERIA ☐ EMPRESA EXTRANJERA ☐ NIT ☐ PASAPORTE ☒ No Aplica Número: -				
5	Inventor(es)			
Apellidos - Nombres		Domicilio		
1. AOU Kaoru		ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA		
2. MEDINA Juan Carlos		ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA		
3. PARADKAR Rajesh P.		ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA		
4. LATHAM Dwight		ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA		
5. TIPPS-THOMAS Michelle		ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA		
6	Datos Inventor(es)			
País de Residencia		Departamento/Estado	Ciudad	Dirección
1.	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	TEXAS	LAKE JACKSON	514 That Way #722, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US)
2.	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	TEXAS	LAKE JACKSON	51 Sago Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US)

3.	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	TEXAS	LAKE JACKSON	57 Parsley Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US)
4.	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	TEXAS	CLUTE	133 Jamestown, Clute, TX 77531 (US)
5.	ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	TEXAS	RICHWOOD	137 Sycamore Street, Richwood, TX 77531 (US)
7	Datos del Representante Legal / Apoderado			
Nombre:		J. IAN RAISBECK	Dirección Electrónica:	notificaciones.patentes@roclaw.co
Dirección:		CALLE 90 No. 19 - 41 OFICINA 404	Domicilio/País de constitución:	COLOMBIA - BOGOTA D.C. - BOGOTA D.C.
Identificación: ☒ CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA ☐ CEDULA DE EXTRANJERIA ☐ EMPRESA EXTRANJERA ☐ NIT ☐ PASAPORTE Número: 79376996-				
Presentación de Poder				
Año de Radicación				
Número de Radicación				
8	Datos Solicitud: PCT / WO			
Número Solicitud:		PCT/US2014/045854	Fecha Solicitud:	09/07/2014
Número Publicacion:		WO2015/006391	Fecha Publicacion:	15/01/2015
9	Declaraciones de prioridad		☒ SI ☐ NO	
1.	(33) País de origen ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA	Codigo del país US	(31) No. Solicitud 61/844,986	(32) Fecha 11/07/2013
10	Reivindicaciones			

	Número reivindicaciones:	16	Pago Reivindicaciones:	Si
11	Reducción de tasas.			
<i>Declaro que carezco de medios económicos para presentar la solicitud de patente.</i> ☐ SI ☒ NO Nota: En caso de ser persona natural y carecer de medios económicos, y por lo tanto, aplique la reducción de tasas a que se refiere la resolución vigente en tarifas, debe firmar la presente solicitud bajo la gravedad de juramento.				
☐ Micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas ☐ Universidades públicas o privadas ☐ Entidades sin ánimo de lucro Debe aportar los documentos que se indican en el numeral 17 de anexos				
12	Documentos Anexos			
☒ Reivindicaciones ☒ Descripción ☐ Dibujos y/o Figuras ☒ Resumen ☐ Certificado Depósito Material Biológico ☐ Uso de Conocimiento tradicional ☐ Listado de secuencias ☐ Artes finales 12 x 12 cm ☒ Poderes, si fuere el caso ☐ Copia de la primera solicitud si se reivindica prioridad ☐ Traducción simple de la primera solicitud, si se reivindica prioridad ☒ Otros Anexos				

PROCESO PARA PRODUCIR URETANO-ISOCIANURATOS

CAMPO DE LA INVENCION

Las modalidades se refieren a polímeros de
5 poliisocianurato y poliuretano-isocianurato, y métodos para
producir polímeros de poliisocianurato y poliuretano-
isocianurato, que son adaptados para revestir sustratos.

ANTECEDENTES DE LA INVENCION

10 Las resinas fenol-formaldehído han estado en uso
durante más de un siglo. Estos materiales son polímeros
orgánicos muy duro. Se utilizan, por ejemplo, en las tarjetas
de circuitos, muchos tipos de laminados eléctricos,
encimeras, cojinetes, aglutinantes en superficies de fricción
15 (tales como, pastillas de frenos, zapatas de frenos y discos
de embrague), bolas de billar y snooker y otras aplicaciones
donde la dureza (tal como en una cáscara externa) es un
atributo deseable.

Estos polímeros a menudo contienen formaldehído
20 residual, que puede desgasificarse durante su vida útil y
crear problemas de exposición. Por esta razón, hay un fuerte
impulso para encontrar materiales alternativos. Sin embargo,
algunos otros polímeros orgánicos pueden coincidir con la
dureza de las resinas de tipo fenol-formaldehído.

25 En algunas aplicaciones, las resinas fenol-

formaldehído son sometidas a condiciones de alta temperatura, presiones elevadas, y humedad. Los ejemplos de estas aplicaciones incluyen, por ejemplo, materiales compuestos utilizados como conductos para agua a alta temperatura y/o vapor, ciertas aplicaciones submarinas, y revestimientos para los materiales que están expuestos durante el uso al vapor o agua a alta temperatura. En esas condiciones, las resinas presentan una pérdida de propiedades, y pueden perder masa a la humedad circundante. Por ejemplo, cuando las resinas fenol-formaldehído se sumergen en agua a alta temperatura, los productos de descomposición se ven a menudo lixiviados en el agua, lo que lleva al agua a volverse de color blanco lechoso. Para estas aplicaciones, se busca un polímero alternativo que mantenga mejor sus propiedades.

15

BREVE DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA INVENCION

Las modalidades pueden realizarse al proporcionar un método para exponer un sustrato al agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C. El método incluye (a) aplicar una mezcla de reacción a un sustrato, la mezcla de reacción tiene un índice de isocianato de al menos 10 e incluye un componente de poliisocianato aromático, un componente de poliol que tiene un poliol con un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, y una componente de catalizador que tiene un catalizador de

25

trimerización de isocianato, y curar al menos parcialmente la mezcla de reacción para formar un polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato que tiene una temperatura de transición vítrea de al menos 80°C. El método
5 también incluye (b) exponer el sustrato y el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato al agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C.

10

DESCRIPCIÓN DETALLADA DE LA INVENCION

Un polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato en la forma de un revestimiento se puede formular para mantener sus propiedades incluso cuando se sumerge en agua a temperatura alta, por ejemplo, cuando se
15 sumerge en agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C. El polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato tiene una temperatura de transición vítrea de al menos 80°C. De acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, la temperatura de transición vítrea
20 del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato aumenta como resultado de la exposición a una temperatura alta (por ejemplo, una temperatura de al menos 70°C) mientras se sumerge en agua. Este efecto es muy sorprendente y no se explica fácilmente, y es contrario al desempeño de las
25 resinas fenol-formaldehído.

De acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, una etapa (a) en un método de formación del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato incluye el curado de una mezcla de reacción, que incluye un componente de poliisocianato aromático, un componente de poliol que tiene un poliol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, y un componente de catalizador que tiene un catalizador de trimerización de isocianato, en la mezcla de reacción el índice de isocianato es al menos 10. El polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato formado de acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, es altamente resistente a las condiciones encontradas en la inmersión en agua a elevadas temperaturas. En consecuencia, después de curar la mezcla de reacción que forma el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato, una etapa (b) incluye la exposición del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato a agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C. La etapa de exposición al agua a alta temperatura (b) se puede realizar durante el uso del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato en su aplicación prevista, o como una etapa de manufactura separada sin relación con su uso final. El curado completo de la mezcla de reacción en la etapa (a) se puede realizar antes de la etapa (b) o simultáneamente con la etapa (b), por ejemplo, el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-

isocianurato en la etapa (a) sólo puede ser parcialmente curado antes de ser expuesto al agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C.

La mezcla de reacción en la etapa (a) incluye un
5 componente de poliisocianato aromático que tiene al menos un poliisocianato aromático. El poliisocianato aromático puede tener una funcionalidad isocianato promedio de 1.9 a 4 (por ejemplo, 2.0 a 3.5, 2.8 a 3.2, etc.). El poliisocianato aromático puede tener un peso equivalente de isocianato
10 promedio desde 80 a 160 (por ejemplo, 120 a 150, 125 a 145, etc.).

Los poliisocianatos aromáticos ejemplares incluyen m-fenilen diisocianato, 2,4- y/o 2,6-toluen diisocianato (TDI), los diversos isómeros de difenilmetandiisocianato
15 (MDI), naftilen-1,5-diisocianato, metoxifenil-2,4-diisocianato, 4,4'-bifenilen diisocianato, 3,3'-dimetoxi-4,4'-bifenil diisocianato, 3,3'-dimetildifenilmetan-4,4'-diisocianato, 4,4',4''-trifenilmetan tri-isocianato, polimetilen polifenilisocianatos, toluen-2,4,6-triisocianato,
20 y 4,4'-dimetil difenilmetan-2,2',5,5'-tetraaisocianato.

Los derivados de cualquiera de los anteriores que tienen, por ejemplo, al menos uno seleccionado del grupo de enlaces de urea, uretano, carbodiimida, biuret, alofanato, y uretonimina, también son útiles. De acuerdo con modalidades
25 ejemplares, la mezcla de reacción de la etapa (a) incluye al

menos uno seleccionado del grupo de MDI, productos MDI poliméricos así llamados que son mezclas de MDI y polimetilen polifenilisocianatos, y derivados de MDI tales como productos de MDI "líquidos" modificados con biuret y/o alofanato y
5 otros derivados de MDI que tienen, por ejemplo, enlaces de urea, uretano, carbodiimida, biuret, alofanato y uretonimina.

La mezcla de reacción en la etapa (b) también incluye un componente de poliol que incluye al menos un poliol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos
10 500. En algunas modalidades, el peso equivalente de hidroxilo es desde 500 a 20,000 (por ejemplo, 800 a 5,000, etc.). El poliol contiene desde 1 a 8 grupos hidroxilo por molécula, por ejemplo, desde 2 a 4 grupos hidroxilo por molécula. El poliol puede tener un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al
15 menos 500, al menos 800, o al menos 1,000.

El poliol puede incluir un alcoxilato de cualquiera de las siguientes moléculas, por ejemplo, etilenglicol, dietilenglicol, trietilenglicol, 1,2-propanodiol, dipropilenglicol, tripropilenglicol, 1,4-butanodiol, 1,6-
20 hexanodiol, glicerina, trimetilolpropano, trimetiloletano, pentaeritritol, eritritol, sorbitol, sacarosa, ciclohexanodimetanol, trietanolamina, y similares. El alcoxilato se puede formar añadiendo al menos uno
25 etileno, y óxido de butileno (tal como óxido de 1,2-butileno

y óxido de 1,4-butileno) al respectivo poliol. De acuerdo con una modalidad ejemplar, el alcoxilato puede contener hasta 20% en peso, hasta 25% en peso, hasta 30% en peso, hasta 35% en peso, o hasta 40% de óxido de etileno con base en un peso total del alcoxilato. De acuerdo con otra modalidad ejemplar, el poliol contiene un bloque de óxido de etileno terminal.

Los alcoxilatos de amoníaco o compuestos de amina primaria o secundaria tales como anilina, toluen diamina, etilen diamina, dietilentriamina, piperazina, aminoetilpiperazina, y similares, que tienen un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, al menos 800, o al menos 1,000 también son útiles. El alcoxilato puede tener un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de hasta 5000, o hasta 10,000.

Los polioles de poliéster que tienen un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, al menos 800, o al menos 1,000 también son útiles.

Los polioles con rellenos (polioles rellenos) se pueden utilizar también, donde el peso equivalente de hidroxilo es al menos 500, al menos 800, o al menos 1,000. Los polioles rellenos pueden contener uno o más polioles copoliméricos con partículas poliméricas como un relleno dispersado dentro de los polioles copoliméricos. Los polioles rellenos ejemplares incluyen polioles rellenos a base de estireno/acrilonitrilo (SAN), polioles rellenos de dispersión polyharnstoff (PHD), y polioles rellenos a base

de productos de poliadición de poliisocianato (PIPA). Por ejemplo, los polioles rellenos se enseñan en *Chemistry and Technology of Polyols for Polyurethanes*, Rapra Technology Limited, 2005, páginas 185-227, y se enseñan en Herrington and Hock, *Flexible Polyurethane Foams*, The Dow Chemical Company, 1991, páginas 2.10-2.14. Además, los polioles rellenos tal como poliol copolimérico mecánicamente dispersado se pueden utilizar, por ejemplo, como se describe en la Publicación de Patente de Estados Unidos No. 2011/0213044.

En ciertas modalidades, uno o más polioles copoliméricos (por ejemplo, polioles copoliméricos que se conocen en la técnica) contienen partículas de estireno/acrilonitrilo (SAN) dispersadas en estos, y las partículas poliméricas dispersadas se pueden obtener por polimerización in situ de acrilonitrilo y estireno. Por ejemplo, uno o más polioles copoliméricos contienen desde 20 % por ciento en peso a 50 % en peso (por ejemplo, 30 % en peso a 40 % en peso, 35 % en peso a 40 % en peso, etc.) de partículas de estireno acrilonitrilo sólidas, con base en un peso total del poliol relleno. Las partículas de estireno acrilonitrilo pueden tener un tamaño de partícula desde 1 a 2 micras. El poliol portador para los polioles copoliméricos puede tener una funcionalidad nominal de 2 o 3 (por ejemplo, los polioles copoliméricos pueden ser un triol).

Uno o más de los polioles anteriormente mencionados se pueden utilizar en combinación, con un peso equivalente de hidroxilo promedio en número combinado de al menos 500, al menos 800, o al menos 1,000.

5 El índice de isocianato de la mezcla de reacción que incluye el poliisocianato aromático y uno o más polioles es al menos 10, y puede ser al menos 20, al menos 50, al menos 100, al menos 150, al menos 200, al menos 250, o al menos 300. El índice de isocianato aquí es la relación
10 estequiométrica de los grupos funcionales isocianato a los hidrógenos activos en la formulación de poliol/isocianato. El poliisocianato aromático debe contener un promedio de al menos 2 (por ejemplo, desde 2 a 3.5) grupos isocianato por molécula.

15 De acuerdo con modalidades, la mezcla de reacción que incluye el componente de poliisocianato y el componente de poliol se curan en la presencia de un componente de catalizador, que incluye un catalizador de trimerización de isocianato. Aunque el poliisocianato aromático, posiblemente,
20 se puede curar por sí mismo, la mezcla de reacción se puede curar utilizando un catalizador de trimerización. Un poliol en el componente de poliol (por ejemplo, un poliol relleno) puede ser un portador reactivo para el catalizador de trimerización. Por ejemplo, en lugar de utilizar un portador
25 inerte (o ningún portador) para el catalizador de

trimerización, un poliol utilizado en la formación del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato puede actuar como un portador reactivo del catalizador de trimerización. El componente de catalizador puede incluir
5 opcionalmente un catalizador de uretano, es decir, un catalizador para la reacción de un isocianato con un grupo hidroxilo, el cual se puede utilizar además del catalizador de trimerización. Por ejemplo, cuando el poliol no tiene algunos grupos hidroxilo primarios, el catalizador de uretano
10 se puede incluir en el componente de catalizador.

Los catalizadores de trimerización incluyen, por ejemplo, bases fuertes tales como fenolatos de metales alcalinos, alcóxidos de metales alcalinos, carboxilatos de metales alcalinos, sales de amonio cuaternario, y similares.
15 Entre los catalizadores de trimerización de metal alcalino están el p-nonilfenolato de sodio, p-octil fenolato de sodio, p-terc-butil fenolato de sodio, formiato de sodio, acetato de sodio, propionato de sodio, butirato de sodio, 2-etilhexanoato de sodio, sal N-[(2-hidroxi-5-
20 nonilfenil)metil]-N-metil-monosódica de glicina, p-nonilfenolato de potasio, p-octil fenolato de potasio, p-terc-butil fenolato de potasio, formiato de potasio, acetato de potasio, propionato de potasio, butirato de potasio, 2-etilhexanoato de potasio, sal N-[(2-hidroxi-5-
25 nonilfenil)metil]-N-metil-monopotásica de glicina, p-

nonilfenolato de cesio, p-octil fenolato de cesio, p-terc-butil fenolato de cesio, formiato de cesio, acetato de cesio, propionato de cesio, butirato de cesio, 2-etilhexanoato de cesio y sal N-[(2-hidroxi-5-nonilfenil)metil]-N-metil-monocésica de glicina. Entre las sales de amonio útiles están las 2-etilhexanoato de (2-hidroxi-5-nonilfenil)trimetilamonio, formiato de (2-hidroxi-5-nonilfenil)trimetilamonio y similares. Los compuestos aminofenólicos tales como N,N',N''-tris(3-dimetilaminopropil)hexahidro-s-triazina también son catalizadores de trimerización útiles. Las sales imidazolio o imidazolinio también se pueden utilizar como catalizadores de trimerización, tales como acetato de 1-etil, 2-metilimidazolio, acetato de 1,3-di-terc-butil-imidazolinio, acetato de 1,3-diadamantil-imidazolio, acetato de 1,3-diisopropil-imidazolio, acetato de 1,3-di-terc-butil-imidazolio, acetato de 1-butil-3-metilimidazolio, y otras descritas (por ejemplo, como se describe en la Publicación de Patente de Estados Unidos No. 2011/0020170). Por ejemplo, se pueden utilizar los compuestos de metal alcalino y/o amonio.

Los ejemplos de catalizadores de uretano incluyen diversas aminas, carboxilatos de estaño, compuestos de organoestaño, fosfinas terciarias, diversos quelatos metálicos, sales metálicas de ácidos fuertes (tales como cloruro férrico, cloruro estánico, cloruro de estaño, tricloruro de antimonio, nitrato de bismuto y cloruro de

bismuto), y similares. Por ejemplo, se pueden utilizar los catalizadores de amina y estaño. Los catalizadores de amina no pueden contener hidrógenos de amina.

Los catalizadores de amina incluyen, por ejemplo,

5 trimetilamina, trietilamina, N-metilmorfolina, N-etilmorfolina, N,N-dimetilbencilamina, N,N-dimetiletanolamina, N,N,N',N'-tetrametil-1,4-butanodiamina, N,N-dimetilpiperazina, 1,4-diazobiciclo-2,2,2-octano, bis(dimetilaminoetil)éter, bis(2-dimetilaminoetil)éter,

10 morfolina, 4,4'-(oxidi-2,1-etanodiilo)bis, trietilendiamina, pentametil dietilen triamina, dimetil ciclohexil amina, N-cetil N,N-dimetil amina, N-coco-morfolina, N,N-dimetil aminometil N-metil etanol amina, N,N,N'-trimetil-N'-hidroxietil bis (aminoetil) éter, N,N-bis(3-

15 dimetilaminopropil)N-isopropanolamina, (N,N-dimetil)amino-etoxi etanol, N,N,N',N'-tetrametil hexano diamina, 1,8-diazabiciclo-5,4,0-undeceno-7,N,N-dimorfolinodietil éter, N-metil imidazol, dimetil aminopropil dipropanolamina, bis(dimetilaminopropil)amino-2-propanol, tetrametilamino

20 bis(propilamina), (dimetil(aminoetoxietil))((dimetil amina)etil)éter, tris(dimetilamino propil)amina, diciclohexil metil amina, bis(N,N-dimetil-3-aminopropil)amina, 1,2-etilen piperidina, y metil-hidroxietil piperazina.

Los catalizadores que contienen estaño útiles

25 incluyen, por ejemplo, octoato de estaño, diacetato de

dibutil estaño, dilaurato de dibutil estaño, dimercapturo de dibutil estaño, ácidos de dialquilmercapto de dialquil estaño, óxido de dibutil estaño, dimercapturo de dimetil estaño, diisooctilmercaptoacetato de dimetil estaño, y
5 similares.

El catalizador de trimerización puede estar presente, por ejemplo, en una cantidad desde 0.01 a 15 partes (por ejemplo, 0.05 a 1, 0.1 a 0.5, etc.) en peso, con base en un total de 100 partes del peso combinado del componente de
10 poliisocianato y el componente de poliol. El catalizador de uretano, cuando está presente, puede estar presente en cantidades similares como el catalizador de trimerización, por ejemplo, en una cantidad desde 0.01 a 15 partes (por ejemplo, 0.05 a 1, 0.1 a 0.5, etc.) en peso, con base en el
15 total de 100 partes del peso combinado del componente de poliisocianato y el componente de poliol.

Los diversos ingredientes opcionales se pueden incluir en la mezcla de reacción durante la etapa (a) del proceso. Por ejemplo, se pueden utilizar agentes de refuerzo
20 tales como fibras y escamas que tienen una relación de aspecto (relación de mayor a menor dimensión ortogonal) de al menos 5. Estas fibras y escamas pueden ser, por ejemplo, de un material inorgánico tal como vidrio, mica, otras fibras y escamas cerámicas, fibras de carbono, fibras poliméricas
25 orgánicas que no se funden y térmicamente estables a las

temperaturas encontradas en las etapas (a) y (b) de este proceso (tales como fibras de poliamida), y similares. Otro ingrediente opcional útil es un rellenedor particulado de baja relación de aspecto. Tal rellenedor puede ser, por ejemplo, arena, arcilla, otros minerales, o un polímero orgánico que no se funde y térmicamente estable a las temperaturas encontradas en las etapas (a) y (b) del proceso. Tal rellenedor particulado tiene un tamaño de partícula (medido por métodos de tamizado) de menos de 100 μm .

Otro ingrediente opcional incluye una resina epoxídica líquida. La resina epoxídica líquida se puede añadir en cantidades de hasta 20 % en peso, con base en el peso total de la mezcla de reacción. Las resinas epoxídicas líquidas ejemplares incluyen los poliéteres de glicidilo de fenoles polihídricos y alcoholes polihídricos. Por ejemplo, los éteres de diglicidilo de resorcinol, catecol, hidroquinona, bisfenol, bisfenol A, bisfenol AP (1,1-bis(4-hidroxifenil)-1-fenil etano), bisfenol F, bisfenol K, tetrabromobisfenol A, resinas fenol-formaldehído de novolac, resinas de fenol-formaldehído sustituidas con alquilo, resinas fenol-hidroxibenzaldehído, resinas cresol-hidroxibenzaldehído, resinas dicitlopentadieno-fenol, resinas dicitlopentadieno-fenol sustituido, tetrametilbifenol, tetrametil-tetrabromobifenol, tetrametiltribromobifenol, tetraclorobisfenol A, y cualquier combinación de los mismos

se pueden incluir en la mezcla de reacción.

La resina epoxídica líquida puede ser un diepóxido. Los ejemplos de diepóxidos que se pueden añadir a la mezcla de reacción incluyen éter diglicidílico de 2,2-bis(4-
5 hidroxifenil)propano (generalmente denominado como bisfenol A) y éter diglicidílico de 2,2-bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hidroxifenil)propano (generalmente referido como tetrabromobisfenol A). Se pueden utilizar mezclas de cualesquiera dos o más diepóxidos. Otros diepóxidos que se
10 pueden emplear incluyen los éteres diglicidílicos de fenoles dihidricos, tales como los descritos en las Patentes de Estados Unidos Nos. 5,246,751; 5,115,075; 5,089,588; 4,480,082 y 4,438,254. Además, los ésteres diglicidílicos de ácidos dicarboxílicos tales como los descritos en la Patente
15 de Estados Unidos No. 5,171,820, se pueden emplear. Otros diepóxidos adecuados incluyen, por ejemplo, resinas epoxídicas a base de ω -diglicidiloxiisopropiliden-bisfenol tales como las conocidas comercialmente como resinas epoxídicas D.E.R.® serie 300 y 600 (disponibles en The Dow
20 Chemical Company).

Aún otros ingredientes opcionales útiles incluyen colorantes, biocidas, agentes de estabilización UV, conservadores, antioxidantes, tensioactivos, y similares. Aunque es posible incluir un agente de soplado en la mezcla
25 de reacción, en algunas modalidades, el agente de soplado se

excluye de la mezcla de reacción.

El polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato formado en la etapa (a) puede ser un polímero sustancialmente no celular que tiene una densidad de al menos 500 kg/m³, al menos 750 kg/m³, o al menos 950 kg/m³. Por ejemplo, el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato formado en la etapa (a) puede tener una densidad de hasta 1,000 kg/m³. La densidad del polímero se ha encontrado que cambia a lo sumo insignificadamente durante la etapa (b). Por lo tanto, en modalidades ejemplares el polímero obtenido de la etapa (b) del proceso también es sustancialmente no celular, y tiene una densidad de al menos 500 kg/m³, al menos 750 kg/m³, o al menos 950 kg/m³.

Los poliisocianatos aromáticos o mezcla de los mismos con los polioles se curan en la etapa (a). Por ejemplo, se pueden utilizar métodos para realizar tales polimerizaciones que son conocidos en la técnica. De acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, los reactivos y catalizadores como se describen anteriormente se combinan, y luego se calientan a una elevada temperatura a la que procede la trimerización de grupos isocianato. La elevada temperatura puede ser, por ejemplo, al menos 50°C (y puede ser hasta 180°C).

La temperatura de transición vítrea del polímero obtenido de esta primera etapa de polimerización es al menos

80°C, al menos 120°C, al menos 160°C, o al menos 180°C. De acuerdo con una modalidad ejemplar, la temperatura de transición vítrea puede ser tan alta como 250°C, por ejemplo, la temperatura de transición vítrea después de la etapa (a) puede estar en un rango entre 160°C a 250°C (por ejemplo, 180°C a 245°C, 200°C a 235°C, 210°C a 225°C, etc.). La temperatura de transición vítrea se mide por análisis térmico mecánico dinámico (DMTA) a una frecuencia de oscilación de 1 Hertz y una velocidad de barrido de calentamiento a 3°C/segundo desde 20°C a 200°C. La temperatura correspondiente al pico de la curva de tangente delta se toma como la temperatura de transición vítrea (T_g) del espécimen analizado.

La polimerización en la etapa (a) se puede realizar de varias maneras. Si se desea un producto moldeado, la mezcla de reacción se puede introducir en un molde adecuado y se cura en este. La mezcla de reacción se puede aplicar sobre la superficie de cualquier sustrato adecuado y se cura sobre este para formar un revestimiento sobre este. La mezcla de reacción se puede utilizar para impregnar un material de sustrato o un material de refuerzo, y luego se cura en la presencia del sustrato para formar un material compuesto.

Esta polimerización en la etapa (a) se puede realizar en dos o más sub-etapas. Por ejemplo, la mezcla de reacción se puede curar a su punto de gel en una primera sub-

etapa, haciendo avanzar el curado lo suficiente para formar un material semi-sólido o sólido que se puede manipular y/o conformar adicionalmente antes de una sub-etapa de curado subsiguiente que conduce al desarrollo de un polímero de alta temperatura de transición de vidrio como se ha descrito antes. Este método es adecuado, por ejemplo, para formar diversos tipos de materiales compuestos reforzados. Este método también es susceptible para producir productos moldeados. La mezcla de reacción se puede polimerizar en un molde hasta que el polímero ha obtenido suficiente resistencia para permitir que se desmoldee sin distorsión o daño permanente, y luego se post-cura fuera del molde para completar la etapa de polimerización.

El polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato obtenido de la etapa (a) se expone al agua a presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C en una etapa (b). La temperatura durante la etapa (b) puede ser tan alta como 180°C (por ejemplo, pero no puede exceder 160 ° y/o es hasta 140°C. De acuerdo con una modalidad ejemplar, la temperatura durante la etapa (b) es desde 100°C a 130°C. La presión en la etapa (b) es mayor que 1 atmósfera (101.325 kPa) y puede ser cualquier valor máayor. Sin embargo, las presiones mayores de 100 atmósferas no pueden proporcionar un beneficio adicional. La presión puede variar desde, por ejemplo, 150 kPa a 5000 kPa, 200 kPa a 5000

kPa, etc.

En la etapa (b), el agua se puede proporcionar en la forma de un líquido y/o un gas. Si se proporciona como un gas, la atmósfera puede estar saturada o super-saturada con agua. Al menos una parte del agua se puede proporcionar como un líquido. Si la temperatura es 100°C o superior, la presión superior a la atmosférica puede ser suficiente para mantener el agua al menos parcialmente como un líquido.

El tiempo de tratamiento para la etapa (b) del proceso puede variar desde, por ejemplo, una hora a muchos días o más. La etapa (b) se puede realizar continuamente durante la longitud completa del uso del material. Si la etapa (b) se realiza por separado, se puede realizar, por ejemplo, por un período de una hora a 15 días (por ejemplo, desde un período que es 12 horas a 10 días). De acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, la etapa (b) se realiza durante un período de tiempo suficiente para aumentar la temperatura de transición vítrea del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato, al menos 5°C.

La etapa (b) del proceso se puede realizar como una etapa de producción separada, es decir, como una etapa de manufactura que se realiza aparte y antes de utilizar el polímero en su aplicación prevista. Sin embargo, en muchos casos, la etapa (b) se realiza en el curso del uso ordinario del polímero. Por ejemplo, el polímero se puede utilizar bajo

alta temperatura, condiciones acuosas o de humedad superiores a las atmosféricas, que satisfacen los requisitos de la etapa (b) del proceso. Como antes, si el agua está en la forma de un gas, el gas puede ser saturado o super-saturado con el agua. Los ejemplos de tales usos finales incluyen revestimientos autoclavables, tuberías u otros conductos para fluidos acuosos calientes (tales como conductos de producción submarina), tuberías de proceso químico, conductos de agua de refrigeración u otras aplicaciones en las que el producto está expuesto a condiciones de alta temperatura y alta humedad o agua líquida.

Una característica sorprendente de las modalidades es que el polímero formado en la etapa (a) es bastante resistente a la pérdida de propiedades físicas después de la exposición al agua y altas temperaturas como se ve en la etapa (b). A menudo, la temperatura de transición vítrea del polímero en realidad aumenta durante la etapa (b), que es bastante sorprendente e inesperado. Este aumento en la temperatura de transición vítrea no se contabiliza fácilmente. Incluso cuando la temperatura de transición vítrea no aumenta, puede permanecer casi constante o a lo mucho disminuye sólo ligeramente. Típicamente, el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliisocianurato-uretano obtenido después de la etapa (b) tiene una temperatura de transición vítrea de al menos 150°C, y puede ser desde 160 a 250°C (por ejemplo,

desde 160 a 220°C).

El polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato está formado como un revestimiento sobre un sustrato. El sustrato puede ser de cualquier tamaño y geometría convenientes que varían desde grandes bloques a 5 fibras a partículas (tales como partículas de arena, partículas a base de cerámica, partículas de bauxita, y perlas de vidrio). Tal sustrato particulado puede tener un tamaño de partícula como se mide por métodos de tamizado de al menos 100 μm . El revestimiento del polímero de 10 poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato se puede formar aplicando la mezcla de reacción como se describió anteriormente a una superficie o superficies del sustrato, y luego realizar las etapas (a) y (b) como se describió 15 anteriormente, mientras que la mezcla de reacción está en las superficies del sustrato. Tal operación de revestimiento se puede realizar en un molde (que es adecuado para sustratos más grandes) o se puede realizar utilizando diversas técnicas de pulverización, pintura u otras técnicas de revestimiento 20 para aplicar la mezcla de reacción a la superficie del sustrato. De acuerdo con modalidades ejemplares, el sustrato se puede revestir por inmersión en la mezcla de reacción.

Para formar un particulado revestido, la mezcla de reacción se puede aplicar al sustrato utilizando cualquier 25 método conveniente incluyendo los descritos anteriormente. La

etapa (a) del proceso luego se puede realizar separando las partículas revestidas con mezcla de reacción antes de realizar la polimerización, y/o agitando las partículas de sustrato cuando la mezcla de reacción se cura para evitar la aglomeración no deseada. También es posible realizar la etapa (a) sobre las partículas revestidas con mezcla de reacción para formar una masa aglomerada o parcialmente aglomerada, que luego se rompe en piezas individuales después que la etapa (a) o etapa (b) se completa.

Una amplia variedad de materiales se puede utilizar como tal sustrato. Todo lo que se busca es que el sustrato sea un sólido bajo las condiciones del proceso de revestimiento, y que el sustrato no se disuelva o se degrade de manera no deseable o reaccione bajo las condiciones de la reacción de curado. El sustrato puede reaccionar con uno o más componentes de la mezcla de reacción, para formar enlaces entre el sustrato y el revestimiento. Los ejemplos de sustratos incluyen, por ejemplo, metales, materiales cerámicos, arena, arcilla, roca, piedra, otros polímeros orgánicos, madera, partículas de fertilizantes orgánicos o inorgánicos, otros materiales vegetales, diversos materiales compuestos, y similares. El espesor del revestimiento puede variar, por ejemplo, desde 0.1 μm a 15 cm o más, como es deseable para la aplicación particular. En aplicaciones específicas, el espesor del revestimiento puede ser desde 100

μm a 2.5 mm, o desde 250 μm a 1 mm.

De acuerdo con una modalidad ejemplar, una mezcla de reacción como se ha descrito antes se aplica a un sustrato que es un refuerzo fibroso y luego se polimeriza realizando la etapa (a) para formar un material compuesto reforzado con fibras. El material compuesto reforzado con fibras en tal caso tendrá una fase de polímero, y una fase de fibra que incluye el refuerzo fibroso. La fase de fibra está incrustada y unida por la fase de polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato formada polimerizando la mezcla de reacción. Tal material compuesto reforzado con fibras es útil, por ejemplo, como un conducto (tal como para fluidos acuosos calientes y diversos gases y líquidos), como sustrato para placas de circuito, como un componente estructural (tal como para vehículos, herramientas, y equipos mecanizados), y similares. Al producir tales materiales compuestos, la etapa (b) se puede realizar durante el uso normal del material compuesto, en los casos en los que tal uso somete el material compuesto a las condiciones de temperatura, presión, y humedad como se describe en la presente. Alternativamente, la etapa (b) se puede realizar como una etapa de manufactura separada.

Ejemplos

Los siguientes ejemplos se proporcionan para

ilustrar modalidades ejemplares, y no están destinados a limitar el alcance de las mismas. Todas las partes y porcentajes están en peso a menos que se indique lo contrario.

5 Los siguientes materiales se utilizan principalmente en las mezclas:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|
| | POLIOL A | Un poli(óxido de propileno)triol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 85. |
| 10 | POLIOL B | Un poli(óxido de propileno)diol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 1,000. |
| | POLIOL C | Un poli(óxido de propileno)diol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 2000. |
| 15 | POLIOL D | Un poli(óxido de propileno) diol que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 4000. |
| | POLIOL E | Un poliol de poliéter propoxilado iniciado por glicerol, que tiene una funcionalidad nominal de 3, una protección de óxido de etileno de 15 por ciento, y un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 2040. |
| 20 | | |
| 25 | POLIOL A RELLENADO | Un poliol polimérico que contiene |

- partículas poliméricas dispersadas
obtenidas por polimerización in situ de
acrilonitrilo y estireno con un peso
equivalente de hidroxilo de
aproximadamente 2700, con un contenido
de sólidos de aproximadamente 40 % en
peso (disponible de The Dow Chemical
Company como DNC 701.01 Developmental
Poliol).
- 10 POLIOL B RELLENADO Un polioliol polimérico que contiene
partículas poliméricas dispersadas
obtenidas por polimerización in situ de
acrilonitrilo y estireno con un peso
equivalente de hidroxilo de
aproximadamente 1800, con un contenido
de sólidos de aproximadamente 40 % en
peso (disponible de The Dow Chemical
Company como VORALUX™ HL 431).
- 15
- POLIISOCIANATO A Un MDI polimérico que tiene un peso de
equivalente de isocianato de 136.5 y
una funcionalidad isocianato nominal de
3.0.
- 20
- Catalizador de trimerización A Una solución de sal de 2- etilhexanoato
de (2-hidroxipropil)trimetilamonio en
etilenglicol (disponible de Air
- 25

Products and Chemicals como catalizador DABCO® TMR).

Catalizador de Uretano A Un catalizador de dilaurato de dibutilestaño (disponible de Air Products and Chemicals como DABCO® T-12).

Los polímeros de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato se prepararon en el siguiente proceso general:

Para la etapa (a), el poliol (como se muestra en las Tablas 1 y 2, a continuación) se carga en la taza de mezclado de un mezclador de laboratorio de alta velocidad (FlackTek SpeedMixer). Los respectivos catalizadores de las Tablas 1 y 2, a continuación, luego se añadieron y mezclaron completamente en el poliol a 800 rpm durante 5 segundos, seguido por 2000 rpm durante 10 segundos. El poliisocianato correspondiente de las Tablas 1 y 2, a continuación, luego se añadió en la taza de mezclado y se mezcló con los otros componentes a la misma condición de mezclado. La mezcla de reacción resultante se vació en un molde de acero circular de 14 cm de diámetro y 0.5 cm de profundidad, que se ha pulverizado previamente con un agente de liberación de molde (liberación de molde STONER E236 de Stoner Inc., de Quarryville, Pennsylvania). La cantidad de la mezcla de reacción en cada caso es 30 a 40 gramos. La mezcla de reacción se dejó curar sin calor aplicado hasta que se ha

curado lo suficiente para el desmoldeo. El moldeado resultante, en cada caso, luego se post-curó bajo condiciones de tiempo y temperatura como se indica a continuación en la Tabla 1 (este proceso se denomina "post-curado").

5 Las muestras se cortaron de cada moldeo (también nos referimos a estas como las muestras post-curadas). Los especímenes de las muestras post-curadas se llevaron a análisis térmico mecánico dinámico (DMTA). Las mediciones de DMTA se realizaron utilizando una frecuencia de oscilación de
10 1 seg^{-1} y una velocidad de calentamiento de $3^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{minuto}$. La temperatura de transición vítrea se tomó en cada caso como el pico de la curva de tangente delta (pico de tangente delta T_g , o simplemente T_g). El módulo de almacenamiento se midió a 50°C y 121°C . El G' corregido se reportó, donde el G' a 121°C
15 se ajustó por un factor tal que el G' a 50°C se corregiría a $1 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa}$. Esto es para tener en cuenta la superficie irregular de algunas de las placas. El valor corregido se reportó como " G' a 121°C corregido".

La etapa (b), la que llamamos "envejecimiento
20 húmedo", se realizó sobre muestras cortadas de los moldeos hechos en la etapa (a). Las muestras se sumergieron en agua desionizada en un reactor de Parr de 1 galón (3.78 l). El espacio de cabeza se cargó a 500 psi con nitrógeno y se liberó tres veces para purgar el oxígeno residual. El espacio
25 de cabeza se cargó luego de nuevo a 500 psi con nitrógeno y

se selló. El reactor sellado luego se calentó a 121°C, y se mantuvo allí durante siete días. A 121°C, la presión de la cámara es de aproximadamente 650 psi. El contenido del reactor se dejó llegar a temperatura ambiente. Las muestras

5 luego se removieron y se sumergieron en agua desionizada en un horno a 50°C hasta que se tomaron para el análisis de DMTA como con las muestras post-curadas. Las muestras se removieron del baño de agua a 50°C inmediatamente antes del análisis de DMTA - tales muestras se denominan como

10 envejecidas en húmedo. La temperatura de transición vítrea se midió, ya que el módulo de almacenamiento G' está tanto a 50°C como 121°C.

Las formulaciones y resultados de prueba de los Ejemplos Comparativos A, B, y C, y para los Ejemplos 1, 2 y

15 3, se dan en la Tabla 1, a continuación.

Tabla 1

	Ejemplo Comp. A	Ejemplo Comp. B	Ejemplo Comp. C	Ejemplo 1	Ejemplo 2	Ejemplo 3
Formulación	Partes en Peso					
20 Poliol A	21.0	16.0				
Poliol B			30.2	3.8		
Poliol C					3.8	
Poliol D						3.8
Poliisocianato A	29.5	29.6	6.4	30.0	30.0	30.0
25 Catalizador de Trimerización A	0	0	0	0.50	0.50	0.50

5	Catalizador de Uretano A	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.10
	Índice de Isocianato	0.88	1.15	1.55	58	116	231
	Temperatura de post-curado (°C)/tiempo (min)	80/30	147/33	80/10	120/60	120/60	120/60
10	Propiedades						
	T _g después del post-curado (°C)	158	162	-39	153	90	93
	G' a 121°C Corregido en la muestra post-curada (10 ⁸ Pa)	3.0	6.6	Demasiado blando para medir	6.9	7.5	8.3
15	T _g después del envejecimiento húmedo (°C)	105	128	n/a	202	248	220
	G' a 121°C Corregido en la muestra envejecida húmeda (10 ⁸ Pa)	0.1	0.3	n/a	3.9	7.3	7.6

Los Ejemplos Comparativos A y B muestran el efecto de utilizar un poliol de bajo peso equivalente (es decir, el Poliol A que tiene un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 85) con un índice de isocianato de casi 1 para obtener una placa dura en la condición seca. Se ve que después del envejecimiento húmedo, el módulo cayó significativamente, por debajo de 1×10^8 Pa. Los resultados muestran una caída en el pico de tangente delta T_g de 53°C para el Ejemplo Comparativo

A y una caída de 34°C para el Ejemplo Comparativo B. El Ejemplo Comparativo C muestra un caso donde se utilizó un poliol de alto peso equivalente a un índice de isocianato de casi 1. En este caso, la muestra post-curada tuvo una T_g muy
5 baja de -39°C, y el material es demasiado blando para que se mida el módulo a 121°C. El material no se pudo evaluar en el envejecimiento húmedo debido a esta suavidad. En todos estos casos, las temperaturas y tiempo de post-curado se eligieron para lograr un alto nivel de conversión de isocianato.

10 Con los Ejemplos 1-3 se muestra el beneficio de utilizar poliol de peso equivalente mayor a alto índice de isocianato. En cada caso, los polioles son difuncionales y de peso equivalente de hidroxilo de 1000 o mayor. La T_g del material post-curado es 90°C o superior, y por encima de $6 \times$
15 10^8 Pa para el módulo a 121°C. Después del envejecimiento húmedo, la temperatura de transición vítrea de los materiales de Ejemplos 1-3 en realidad aumentó, muy sustancialmente, por encima de 200°C. Este valor es mucho mayor que cualquiera de las otras muestras (Ejemplos Comparativos A, B, y C). El G' a
20 21°C corregido después del envejecimiento húmedo también aumentó, lo cual es contrario al comportamiento de los Ejemplos Comparativos A, B, y C.

Las formulaciones y resultados de las pruebas de los Ejemplos 4-7 se dan en la Tabla 2, a continuación.

Tabla 2

	Ejemplo 4	Ejemplo 5	Ejemplo 6	Ejemplo 7
	Partes en Peso			
	Formulación			
	Poliol E	2.5	3.8	
5	Poliol Rellenado A		2.5	
	Poliol Rellenado B			2.5
	Poliisocianato A	30	30	30
	Catalizador de Trimerización A	0.30	0.26	0.30
	Catalizador de Uretano A	0	0	0
	Índice de Isocianato	179	118	235
10	Temperatura de post-curado(°C)/tiempo (min)	120/60	120/60	120/60
	Propiedades			
	T _g después del post-curado (°C)	172	163	230
	G' a 121°C Corregido en la muestra post-curada (10 ⁸ Pa)	7.8	8.7	7.1
15	T _g después del envejecimiento húmedo (°C)	207	231	235
	G' a 121°C Corregido en la muestra envejecida húmeda (10 ⁸ Pa)	5.5	6.8	6.2

Para los Ejemplos 4 y 5, el poliol (Poliol E) es un poliol de poliéter trifuncional con grupos terminales hidroxilo principalmente primarios. Para los Ejemplos 6 y 7, los polioles son polioles rellenos. La T_g de las muestras post-curadas en los Ejemplos 4-7 fue 60°C o superior, y por encima de 7 x 10⁸ Pa para el módulo a 121°C. Después del envejecimiento húmedo, la T_g para cada uno de los Ejemplos 4-7

aumentó. Este valor es mucho mayor que los Ejemplos Comparativos A, B, y C. El G' a 121°C corregido también aumentó después del envejecimiento húmedo, lo cual es contrario al comportamiento de los Ejemplos Comparativos A, B, y C.

10

15

20

25

REIVINDICACIONES

5 1. Un método para exponer un sustrato al agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C, caracterizado porque el método comprende:

 (a) aplicar una mezcla de reacción a un sustrato, la mezcla de reacción tiene un índice de isocianato de al
10 menos 10 e incluye un componente de poliisocianato aromático, un componente de poliol que tiene un poliol con un peso equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, y un componente de catalizador que tiene un catalizador de trimerización de isocianato, y curar al menos parcialmente la mezcla de
15 reacción para formar un polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato que tiene una temperatura de transición vítrea de al menos 80°C, y

 (b) exponer el sustrato y el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato al agua bajo
20 presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C.

 2. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque el poliol es un poliol relleno o un poliol de poliéster.

25 3. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación 1

o reivindicación 2, caracterizado porque el poliol es un portador reactivo para el catalizador de trimerización de isocianato.

4. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las
5 reivindicaciones 1-3, caracterizado porque la etapa (a) se realiza en la ausencia de un agente de soplado para producir el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato que tiene una densidad de al menos 750 kg/m³.

5. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las
10 reivindicaciones 1-3, caracterizado porque la etapa (a) se realiza en la ausencia de un agente de soplado para producir el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato que tiene una densidad de al menos 950 kg/m³.

6. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las
15 reivindicaciones 1-3, caracterizado porque después de la etapa (b) el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato tiene una densidad de al menos 750 kg/m³.

7. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las
20 reivindicaciones 1-3, caracterizado porque después de la etapa (b) el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato tiene una densidad de al menos 950 kg/m³.

8. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las
reivindicaciones 1-7, caracterizado porque la temperatura de transición vítrea del polímero de poliisocianurato o
25 poliuretano-isocianurato está entre 80°C a 250°C.

9. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-8, caracterizado porque, en la etapa (a) el sustrato es un refuerzo fibroso que luego se cura para formar un material compuesto reforzado con fibras que incluye una fase de fibras en la que la el refuerzo fibroso se incrusta y une por el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato.

10. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-9, caracterizado porque la temperatura en la etapa (b) es hasta 180°C.

11. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1- 9, caracterizado porque la temperatura en la etapa (b) es desde 80°C a 130°C.

12. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-11, caracterizado porque la presión en la etapa (b) es desde 150 kPa a 5,000 kPa.

13. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-12, caracterizado porque el agua en la etapa (b) está al menos parcialmente en la forma de un líquido.

14. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-13, caracterizado porque la etapa (b) se realiza durante un período de tiempo suficiente para aumentar la temperatura de transición vítrea del polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato por al menos 5°C.

15. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-14, caracterizado porque la etapa (b) se realiza durante el uso del sustrato y el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato en una aplicación
5 propuesta.

16. El método de conformidad con cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1-13, caracterizado porque la etapa (b) se realiza como una etapa de manufactura separada del uso del sustrato y el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-
10 isocianurato en una aplicación propuesta.

15

20

25

COPIA FIEL

A QUIEN CORRESPONDA,

El que suscribe, certifica por la presente que los documentos adjuntos son COPIAS FIELES de los documentos originales los cuales he comparado. Los documentos originales contienen las firmas auténticas de los inventores.

en Freeport, Texas 77541, EUA
a los 24 días de noviembre de 2015

[firma ilegible]

Angela Paul

Profesional de la Oficina

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

CERTIFICADO NOTARIAL

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA)
ESTADO DE TEXAS) ss
Condado/Municipio de **Brazoria**)

A los 24 días de noviembre de 2015, compareció
personalmente ante mí,

Angela Paul

conocida o identificada por mí que es la persona quién ejecutó el documento anterior y reconoció el mismo como un acto libre y voluntario para los usos y propósitos expresados aquí.

LAUREN PERKINS BURR
Notario Público, Estado de Texas
Mi Nombramiento Vence el
11 de febrero de 2017

SELLO

[firma ilegible]

Notario Público

Esta Aceptación de Cesionario 660 está en el idioma INGLÉS y tiene el mismo significado en otros idiomas con el mismo número 660.
FORMA 660

Rebecca Sue Hollingshead
NOTARIO PÚBLICO, CONDADO DE MIDLAND, MICHIGAN
MI NOMBRAMIENTO VENCE EL 25 DE noviembre de 2018

Esta Cesión 110 está en el idioma INGLÉS y tiene el mismo significado en otros idiomas con el mismo número 110 y R/Date.

Nombres adicionales, direcciones y formas que se adjuntan a la Forma No. 110 **CESIÓN INDIVIDUAL Y DECLARACIÓN DEL INVENTOR**

En: _____ Freeport, Texas 77541, EUA
a los 5 días de agosto, de 2013
En vigor a partir del 11 de julio de 2013

Firma: _____ [firma ilegible]
Nombre Completo: Michelle Thomas
Residencia: 137 Sycamore Street
Richwood, Texas 77531
País: Estados Unidos de América
Ciudadanía: Estados Unidos de América
Dirección P.O.: Igual que la de residencia
Empleado por: The Dow Chemical Company
Del País: Estados Unidos de América

En: _____
a los _____ días de _____, de 2013

Firma: _____
Nombre Completo: _____
Residencia: _____
País: _____
Ciudadanía: _____
Dirección P.O.: _____
Empleado por: _____
Del País: _____

TRUE COPY

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,

I Do Hereby Certify that the annexed document(s) are TRUE COPIES of the original document(s) which I have compared. The original document(s) contains the authentic signature(s) from the inventor(s).

at Freeport, Texas 77541, USA

this 24th day of November 20 15



Angela Paul
Office Professional
THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

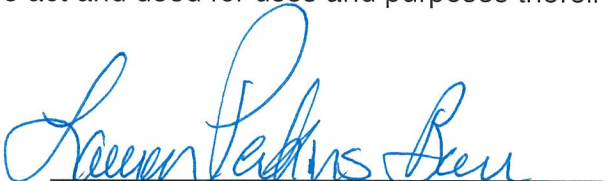
NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
STATE OF **TEXAS**) SS
County/Parish of **Brazoria**)

On this 24th day of November 20 15, personally
appeared before me,

Angela Paul

known or identified to me to be the individual who executed the foregoing document and acknowledged the same as a free act and deed for uses and purposes therein expressed.


Notary Public

This Assignee Acceptance 660 is in the ENGLISH language and has the same meaning in other languages with the same 660 number.

This Assignee Acceptance 660 is in the ENGLISH language and has the same meaning in other languages with the same 660 number.

FORM 660

ASSIGNEE ACCEPTANCE

WE, the ASSIGNEE: **DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC**
2040 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48674
United States of America

hereby accept the ASSIGNMENT attached hereto which is dated: August 5, 2013; effective as of July 11, 2013

From, the ASSIGNOR: Kaoru Aou, 514 That Way #722, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566, United States of America, Citizen of Japan; Juan Carlos Medina, 51 Sago Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566, United States of America, Citizen of Colombia; Rajesh P. Paradkar, 57 Parsley Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566, United States of America, Citizen of India; Dwight D. Latham, 133 Jamestown, Clute, Texas 77531, United States of America, Citizen of United States of America; and Michelle Thomas, 137 Sycamore Street, Richwood, Texas 77531, United States of America; Citizen of United States of America

of the invention entitled:

PROCESS FOR MAKING URETHANE-ISOCYANURATES

without any restrictions and with all rights and obligations deriving therefrom and declare that this confirmation of acceptance shall be deemed a part of the said ASSIGNMENT.

Signed at **Midland, Michigan 48674, USA**

this 9th day of August, 20 13

CORP.
SEAL

DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC

By:

Susan M Zerull

SUSAN M. ZERULL

Authorized Representative

NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

STATE OF MICHIGAN) SS

County/Parish of Midland)

On this 9th day of August, 20 13, personally appeared before me, **SUSAN M. ZERULL, Authorized Representative**,

known or identified to me to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing document and acknowledged the same as a free act and deed for uses and purposes therein expressed by authority of the said entity organized and existing under the laws of **the State of Delaware, United States of America**.

I further certify that said authority, dated **June 1, 2012**, is based on

A delegation of signature authority of said Limited Liability Company

which I have seen, appointing the said individual Authorized Representative with full power to sign the foregoing document on behalf of the said entity and that the purposes for which said document is granted are within the scope of the objects or activities of said entity.

Rebecca Sue Hollingshead
 NOTARY PUBLIC

SEAL

Rebecca Sue Hollingshead
 NOTARY PUBLIC, MIDLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES November 25, 2018

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT AND INVENTOR'S DECLARATION

(with Priority Rights)

I/we verily believe I am/we are the original, first and sole/joint inventor(s) of the subject matter which is embraced by and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **PROCESS FOR MAKING URETHANE-ISOCYANURATES**

which invention was made and invented by me/us out of and in the course of my/our employment with my/our respective employers as stated below my/our name(s). I/we acknowledge that I/we hold the invention and all patent and other rights and powers obtainable or exercisable in respect thereof in trust for our respective employers. As trustee(s), and for good and valuable consideration and/or the remuneration received for my/our work, I/we sell, assign and transfer unto:

Dow Global Technologies LLC

2040 Dow Center

Midland, Michigan 48674

a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of **Delaware** (hereinafter referred to as the "Assignee"); my/our entire right, title and interest throughout the world, in and to the invention and all rights and powers to make applications, including provisional applications when permitted by law, for Letters Patent in its own name, or in the name of its designee (or nominee(s)); and all rights and powers to file any corresponding or equivalent applications in any and all countries, including all rights to claim priority under all United States domestic laws, International Convention(s) and Treaties in the name of Assignee, and do hereby authorize Assignee or its designee to insert here the Priority Number, Filing Date, and Filing Country

Priority Number	Filing Date	Filing Country
61/844,986	July 11, 2013	United States of America

of the application, on which the claim for priority will be based; and in and to any Letters Patent that may be issued for the invention in any and all countries. I/we do hereby agree to assist Assignee in the prosecution of the application(s) and in any interference, conflict, opposition or litigation which may arise involving the invention or the patent or patents thereon, and to execute for any and all countries any document relating to applications derived from, corresponding to or equivalent to the above identified application as Assignee may request.

I/we authorize Assignee or its designee to translate this Assignment into all languages necessary; and we request that any such Letters Patent be issued to Assignee; and consent to the recordal of this Assignment, or a Notarial True Copy thereof, being under covenant not only that I/we have full power to make the same, but also that such assigned rights are not encumbered by any grant, license, or other right heretofore given.

Subscribed and Declared by me/us:

At: Freeport, Texas 77541, USA
 this 5th day of August, 20 13
 Effective as of July 11, 2013
 Signature: [Signature]
 Full Name: Kaoru Aou
 Residence: 514 That Way #722
 Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
 Country: United States of America
 Citizenship: Japan
 P.O. Address: Same as Residence
 Employed By: The Dow Chemical Company
 Of Country: United States of America

At: Freeport, Texas 77541, USA
 this 5 day of August, 20 13
 Effective as of July 11, 2013
 Signature: [Signature]
 Full Name: Juan Carlos Medina
 Residence: 51 Sago Court
 Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
 Country: United States of America
 Citizenship: Colombia
 P.O. Address: Same as Residence
 Employed By: The Dow Chemical Company
 Of Country: United States of America

At: Freeport, Texas 77541, USA
 this 5th day of August, 20 13
 Effective as of July 11, 2013
 Signature: [Signature]
 Full Name: Rajesh P. Paradkar
 Residence: 57 Parsley Court
 Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
 Country: United States of America
 Citizenship: India
 P.O. Address: Same as Residence
 Employed By: The Dow Chemical Company
 Of Country: United States of America

At: Freeport, Texas 77541, USA
 this 5th day of August, 20 13
 Effective as of July 11, 2013
 Signature: [Signature]
 Full Name: Dwight D. Latham
 Residence: 133 Jamestown
 Clute, Texas 77531
 Country: United States of America
 Citizenship: United States of America
 P.O. Address: Same as Residence
 Employed By: The Dow Chemical Company
 Of Country: United States of America

(x) Additional names and signatures are attached.

Additional names, addresses and signatures to be attached to Form No. 110 **INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT AND INVENTORS DECLARATION**

At: Freeport, Texas 77541, USA
this 5 day of August, 20 13
Effective as of July 11, 2013
Signature: Michelle Thomas
Full Name: Michelle Thomas
Residence: 137 Sycamore Street
Richwood, Texas 77531
Country: United States of America
Citizenship: United State of America
P.O. Address: Same as Residence
Employed By: The Dow Chemical Company
Of Country: United States of America

At: _____
this _____ day of _____, 20 _____
Signature: _____
Full Name: _____
Residence: _____
Country: _____
Citizenship: _____
P.O. Address: _____
Employed By: _____
Of Country: _____

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 75018-WO-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2014/045854	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09 July 2014 (09.07.2014)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 July 2013 (11.07.2013)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC		

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).																								
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 9 sheets, including this cover sheet.																								
In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.																									
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">☒</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☒</td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">☒</td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	☒	Box No. I	Basis of the report	☐	Box No. II	Priority	☐	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	☐	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	☒	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	☐	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	☐	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	☒	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
☒	Box No. I	Basis of the report																							
☐	Box No. II	Priority																							
☐	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability																							
☐	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention																							
☒	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																							
☐	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited																							
☐	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application																							
☒	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																							
4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).																								

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Date of issuance of this report 12 January 2016 (12.01.2016)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 10px;"> Authorized officer Yukari Nakamura </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">e-mail: pt07.pct@wipo.int</td> </tr> </table>	Date of issuance of this report 12 January 2016 (12.01.2016)	Authorized officer Yukari Nakamura	e-mail: pt07.pct@wipo.int
Date of issuance of this report 12 January 2016 (12.01.2016)				
Authorized officer Yukari Nakamura				
e-mail: pt07.pct@wipo.int				

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US2014/045854	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.07.2014	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.07.2013
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC INV. C08G18/48 C08G18/76 C08G18/09 C08G18/40 C08G18/18 C08G18/16 C08G18/24 C08G18/30 C08G18/79 C08J5/04 C08G18/10		
Applicant DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Date of completion of this opinion see form PCT/ISA/210	Authorized Officer Telephone No. +49 89 2399-0	
---	--	---	---

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing filed or furnished:
 - a. (means)
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - b. (time)
 - ☐ in the international application as filed
 - ☐ together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Novelty and inventive step (Art. 33(2) and 33(3) PCT):

Preliminary remark:

Unclear statements, such as results to be achieved, cannot be taken into consideration in assessing novelty and inventive step (see Re Item VIII).

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 FR 2 654 385 A1 (NAT STARCH CHEM SA [FR]) 17 May 1991
(1991-05-17)
- D2 US 2003/224179 A1 (SKINNER CHRISTOPHER JOHN [DE] ET AL) 4
December 2003 (2003-12-04)
- D3 IVAN JAVNI ET AL: "Soybean oil based polyisocyanurate cast resins",
JOURNAL OF APPLIED POLYMER SCIENCE,
vol. 90, no. 12, 13 December 2003 (2003-12-13), pages 3333-3337,
XP055126245,
ISSN: 0021-8995, DOI: 10.1002/app.13080
- D4 WO 2007/096216 A1 (HUNTSMAN INT LLC [US]; BLEYS GERHARD
JOZEF [BE]; HUYGENS ERIC [BE]; RO) 30 August 2007 (2007-08-30)

1) D1 discloses a process in which (see Example I on page 8):

- a polyurethane binder is prepared by reacting:

a polypropylene glycol having a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500 with

MDI, which is an aromatic polyisocyanate, in an amount such that the isocyanate index is greater than 10

in the presence of an urethane catalyst;

- said binder is then applied onto both sides of a polyurethane foam, i.e. onto a substrate;

- water is sprayed on the resulting coated substrate;

- glass fibres mats are then applied on each side of the substrate and compressed at 60°C.

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 differs from Example I of D1 in that:

- a trimerization catalyst is involved;
- the temperature during compression is at least 70°C.

There is no evidence in the present application that these differences lead to an unexpected technical effect.

As a matter of fact the present examples and comparative examples do not **only** differ in the absence of trimerization catalyst. Comparative examples A and B also differ in the nature of the polyol, which is not as defined in the present claims, in the amount of urethane catalyst and in the isocyanate index.

Comparative example C differs from the other examples in the absence of trimerization catalyst but also in the amount of urethane catalyst and in the isocyanate index.

Therefore, the problem to be solved by the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 has to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The solution consisting in adding a trimerization catalyst in the reactive mixture of D1, example 1, cannot establish an inventive step, because the addition of trimerization catalysts in the polyol or isocyanate component of a polyurethane composition is known (see D3, the abstract and the experimental part or the examples of D4, from page 12 to page 14). It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply this feature with corresponding effect to a process according to D1.

Varying the temperature during compression appears merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed (see D2, Example 6 or the examples of D4, from page 12 to page 14).

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 lacks therefore inventive step over D1, Example I.

2) Example 6 of D2 discloses the preparation of a polyurethane prepolymer from MDI, and a polyether polyol having an hydroxyl equivalent weight of 1336, the reaction mixture having an isocyanate index of greater than 10.

Said mixture is sprayed onto wood flakes, which constitute a substrate. The resulting coated wood flakes are then pressed at a temperature of 190°C and at a minimum press factor of 5,3 s/mm, i.e. at a pressure above atmospheric.

Said wood flakes have a moisture content of 18%, which implies that the coated substrate is exposed to water during the heating and compression step.

Hence, the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-14 and 16 differs from the process disclosed in Example 6 of D2 in the presence of a trimerization catalyst among the starting products.

As already explained in the preceding paragraph, there is no evidence on file that this difference results in any technical effect.

The problem to be solved by the subject-matter of said claims over D2, has therefore to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The introduction of a trimerization catalyst in the process of D2, example 6, cannot establish an inventive step, because isocyanurates are cited among the suitable polyisocyanates to be used in D2 (see D2, paragraphs [0022]).

Moreover, as already mentioned before, the addition of trimerization catalysts in the polyol or isocyanate components of a polyurethane composition is known to the skilled person in the polyurethane field.

Consequently, the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-14 and 16 does not involve an inventive step over D2.

Dependent claims 2 and 15 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of claim 1 to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, because it is not apparent from the present description what problem is solved by the distinguishing features vis-à-vis D2.

3) D4 discloses a process for preparing polyisocyanate composites comprising (see D4, page 1, lines 1-8 and 18-29; from page 7, line 29 to page 9, line 18; page 11, lines 1-20):

- mixing a polyisocyanate, a polyol having an average equivalent weight of 100 to 2500 and a trimerization catalyst to form a reactive binder; the amount of the polyisocyanate and polyol being such that the isocyanate index of the reactive binder is from 150 to 10 000, i.e. greater than 10;
- mixing said binder with a to-be-bonded material, which is a substrate, at room temperature;

- transferring the reactive composite to a mould, followed by closing and heating the mould and allowing the reactive composite to react. The temperature in the mould is preferably between 80 and 150°C (140°C in the examples) and the pressure is preferably 0.1-100MPa above atmospheric.

The preferred polyisocyanate according to D4 is MDI, i.e. an aromatic polyisocyanate (see D4, from page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 3 and the examples).

In examples 1 and 4, the to-be-bonded material might be wood fibers and glass mats, i.e. substrates as disclosed in present claims 9.

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-12, 14 and 16, thus differs from the process according to D4 in the water treatment mentioned in step b).

In the absence of evidence of any technical effect resulting from this difference, the problem to be solved by the subject-matter of said claims over D4, has to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The introduction of the exposure to water step in the process of D4 renders it more complicated. D4 mentions wood fibers as a substrate, which implies that some water is present in the substrate-binder system (wood fibers usually present a certain degree of humidity). There can be no invention in merely worsening the prior art.

The subject-matter of the present claims is therefore not inventive over D4.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Clarity (Art. 6 PCT):

1) Claims 4-8 and 14 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. With the following statements, the claims attempt to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved:

"to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 4)

"to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 5)

"wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 6)

"wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 950 kg/m³" (claim 7)

"wherein the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer is between 80°C to 250°C" (claim 8)

"wherein stage (b) is performed for a period of time sufficient to increase the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer by at least 5°C" (claim 14).

Each of these formulations merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem, without providing the technical features necessary for achieving this result. It appears possible to define the subject-matter in more concrete terms, viz. in terms of how the effect is to be achieved: amounts/proportions and chemical nature of the starting products, reaction conditions such as temperature...

2) Glass transition temperature values can vary depending on the conditions of measurement. As a consequence, glass transition temperatures as cited in present claim 8 are unclear in the absence of the method and conditions of measurement.

3) It appears from the present application as a whole that the subject-matter of present claim 15 is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT, as its scope is broader than justified by the description.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43*bis*.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2014/045854

International filing date (day/month/year)
09.07.2014

Priority date (day/month/year)
11.07.2013

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

INV. C08G18/48 C08G18/76 C08G18/09 C08G18/40 C08G18/18 C08G18/16 C08G18/24 C08G18/30 C08G18/79
C08J5/04 C08G18/10

Applicant
DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1*bis*(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-0



Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing filed or furnished:
 - a. (means)
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - b. (time)
 - ☐ in the international application as filed
 - ☐ together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-16</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Novelty and inventive step (Art. 33(2) and 33(3) PCT):

Preliminary remark:

Unclear statements, such as results to be achieved, cannot be taken into consideration in assessing novelty and inventive step (see Re Item VIII).

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 FR 2 654 385 A1 (NAT STARCH CHEM SA [FR]) 17 May 1991
(1991-05-17)
- D2 US 2003/224179 A1 (SKINNER CHRISTOPHER JOHN [DE] ET AL) 4
December 2003 (2003-12-04)
- D3 IVAN JAVNI ET AL: "Soybean oil based polyisocyanurate cast resins",
JOURNAL OF APPLIED POLYMER SCIENCE,
vol. 90, no. 12, 13 December 2003 (2003-12-13), pages 3333-3337,
XP055126245,
ISSN: 0021-8995, DOI: 10.1002/app.13080
- D4 WO 2007/096216 A1 (HUNTSMAN INT LLC [US]; BLEYS GERHARD
JOZEF [BE]; HUYGENS ERIC [BE]; RO) 30 August 2007 (2007-08-30)

1) D1 discloses a process in which (see Example I on page 8):

- a polyurethane binder is prepared by reacting:

a polypropylene glycol having a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500 with

MDI, which is an aromatic polyisocyanate, in an amount such that the isocyanate index is greater than 10

in the presence of an urethane catalyst;

- said binder is then applied onto both sides of a polyurethane foam, i.e. onto a substrate;

- water is sprayed on the resulting coated substrate;

- glass fibres mats are then applied on each side of the substrate and compressed at 60°C.

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 differs from Example I of D1 in that:

- a trimerization catalyst is involved;
- the temperature during compression is at least 70°C.

There is no evidence in the present application that these differences lead to an unexpected technical effect.

As a matter of fact the present examples and comparative examples do not **only** differ in the absence of trimerization catalyst. Comparative examples A and B also differ in the nature of the polyol, which is not as defined in the present claims, in the amount of urethane catalyst and in the isocyanate index.

Comparative example C differs from the other examples in the absence of trimerization catalyst but also in the amount of urethane catalyst and in the isocyanate index.

Therefore, the problem to be solved by the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 has to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The solution consisting in adding a trimerization catalyst in the reactive mixture of D1, example 1, cannot establish an inventive step, because the addition of trimerization catalysts in the polyol or isocyanate component of a polyurethane composition is known (see D3, the abstract and the experimental part or the examples of D4, from page 12 to page 14). It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply this feature with corresponding effect to a process according to D1.

Varying the temperature during compression appears merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed (see D2, Example 6 or the examples of D4, from page 12 to page 14).

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-8, 13 and 14 lacks therefore inventive step over D1, Example I.

2) Example 6 of D2 discloses the preparation of a polyurethane prepolymer from MDI, and a polyether polyol having an hydroxyl equivalent weight of 1336, the reaction mixture having an isocyanate index of greater than 10.

Said mixture is sprayed onto wood flakes, which constitute a substrate. The resulting coated wood flakes are then pressed at a temperature of 190°C and at a minimum press factor of 5,3 s/mm, i.e. at a pressure above atmospheric.

Said wood flakes have a moisture content of 18%, which implies that the coated substrate is exposed to water during the heating and compression step.

Hence, the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-14 and 16 differs from the process disclosed in Example 6 of D2 in the presence of a trimerization catalyst among the starting products.

As already explained in the preceding paragraph, there is no evidence on file that this difference results in any technical effect.

The problem to be solved by the subject-matter of said claims over D2, has therefore to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The introduction of a trimerization catalyst in the process of D2, example 6, cannot establish an inventive step, because isocyanurates are cited among the suitable polyisocyanates to be used in D2 (see D2, paragraphs [0022]).

Moreover, as already mentioned before, the addition of trimerization catalysts in the polyol or isocyanate components of a polyurethane composition is known to the skilled person in the polyurethane field.

Consequently, the subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-14 and 16 does not involve an inventive step over D2.

Dependent claims 2 and 15 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of claim 1 to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, because it is not apparent from the present description what problem is solved by the distinguishing features vis-à-vis D2.

3) D4 discloses a process for preparing polyisocyanate composites comprising (see D4, page 1, lines 1-8 and 18-29; from page 7, line 29 to page 9, line 18; page 11, lines 1-20):

- mixing a polyisocyanate, a polyol having an average equivalent weight of 100 to 2500 and a trimerization catalyst to form a reactive binder; the amount of the polyisocyanate and polyol being such that the isocyanate index of the reactive binder is from 150 to 10 000, i.e. greater than 10;
- mixing said binder with a to-be-bonded material, which is a substrate, at room temperature;

- transferring the reactive composite to a mould, followed by closing and heating the mould and allowing the reactive composite to react. The temperature in the mould is preferably between 80 and 150°C (140°C in the examples) and the pressure is preferably 0.1-100MPa above atmospheric.

The preferred polyisocyanate according to D4 is MDI, i.e. an aromatic polyisocyanate (see D4, from page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 3 and the examples).

In examples 1 and 4, the to-be-bonded material might be wood fibers and glass mats, i.e. substrates as disclosed in present claims 9.

The subject-matter of present claims 1, 4-12, 14 and 16, thus differs from the process according to D4 in the water treatment mentioned in step b).

In the absence of evidence of any technical effect resulting from this difference, the problem to be solved by the subject-matter of said claims over D4, has to be regarded as the provision of an alternative process.

The introduction of the exposure to water step in the process of D4 renders it more complicated. D4 mentions wood fibers as a substrate, which implies that some water is present in the substrate-binder system (wood fibers usually present a certain degree of humidity). There can be no invention in merely worsening the prior art.

The subject-matter of the present claims is therefore not inventive over D4.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Clarity (Art. 6 PCT):

1) Claims 4-8 and 14 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. With the following statements, the claims attempt to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved:

"to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 4)

"to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 5)

"wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 750 kg/m³" (claim 6)

"wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 950 kg/m³" (claim 7)

"wherein the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer is between 80°C to 250°C" (claim 8)

"wherein stage (b) is performed for a period of time sufficient to increase the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer by at least 5°C" (claim 14).

Each of these formulations merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem, without providing the technical features necessary for achieving this result. It appears possible to define the subject-matter in more concrete terms, viz. in terms of how the effect is to be achieved: amounts/proportions and chemical nature of the starting products, reaction conditions such as temperature...

2) Glass transition temperature values can vary depending on the conditions of measurement. As a consequence, glass transition temperatures as cited in present claim 8 are unclear in the absence of the method and conditions of measurement.

3) It appears from the present application as a whole that the subject-matter of present claim 15 is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT, as its scope is broader than justified by the description.



(51) International Patent Classification:

C08G 18/48 (2006.01) *C08G 18/24* (2006.01)
C08G 18/76 (2006.01) *C08G 18/30* (2006.01)
C08G 18/09 (2006.01) *C08G 18/79* (2006.01)
C08G 18/40 (2006.01) *C08J 5/04* (2006.01)
C08G 18/18 (2006.01) *C08G 18/10* (2006.01)
C08G 18/16 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2014/045854

(22) International Filing Date:

9 July 2014 (09.07.2014)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

61/844,986 11 July 2013 (11.07.2013) US

(71) Applicant: **DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC**
[US/US]; 2040 Dow Center, Midland, MI 48674 (US).

(72) Inventors: **AOU, Kaoru**; 514 That Way #722, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US). **MEDINA, Juan Carlos**; 51 Sago Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US). **PARADKAR, Rajesh P.**; 57 Parsley Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US). **LATHAM, Dwight**; 133 Jamestown, Clute, TX 77531 (US). **TIPPS-THOMAS, Michelle**; 137 Sycamore Street, Richwood, TX 77531 (US).

(74) Agent: **THEKDI, Amy**; The Dow Chemical Company, Intellectual Property, P. O. Box 1967, Midland, Michigan 48641-1967 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING URETHANE-ISOCYANURATES

(57) Abstract: A method for exposing a substrate to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C includes (a) applying a reaction mixture to a substrate, which reaction mixture has an isocyanate index of at least 10 and includes an aromatic polyisocyanate component, a polyol component having a polyol with a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, and a catalyst component having an isocyanate trimerization catalyst, and at least partially curing the reaction mixture to form a polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a glass transition temperature of at least 80°C, and (b) exposing the substrate and the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C.



PROCESS FOR MAKING URETHANE-ISOCYANURATES

Field

Embodiments relate to polyisocyanurate and polyurethane-isocyanurate
5 polymers, and methods for making polyisocyanurate and polyurethane-isocyanurate
polymers, which are adapted for coating substrates.

Background

Phenolic-formaldehyde resins have been in use for over a century. These
materials are very hard organic polymers. They are used, e.g., in circuit boards, many
10 types of electrical laminates, countertops, bearings, binders in friction surfaces (such as
brake pads, brake shoes, and clutch disks), billiard and snooker balls, and other
applications where hardness (such as in an outer shell) is a desirable attribute.

These polymers often contain residual formaldehyde, which may outgas during
its service life and create exposure issues. For this reason, there is a strong push to find
15 alternative materials. However, few other organic polymers may match the hardness of
phenolic-formaldehyde type resins.

In some applications, phenolic-formaldehyde resins are subjected to conditions
of high temperature, elevated pressures, and moisture. Examples of these applications
include, e.g., composite materials used as conduits for high-temperature water and/or
20 steam, certain undersea applications, and coatings for materials that are exposed during
use to steam or high temperature water. Under those conditions, the resins exhibit a
loss of properties, and may lose mass to the surrounding moisture. For example, when
phenolic-formaldehyde resins are immersed in high temperature water, decomposition
products are often seen leaching into the water, leading to the water turning milky
25 white. For these applications, an alternative polymer that maintains its properties better
is sought.

Summary

Embodiments may be realized by providing a method for exposing a substrate
to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C. The
30 method includes (a) applying a reaction mixture to a substrate, which reaction mixture
has an isocyanate index of at least 10 and includes an aromatic polyisocyanate
component, a polyol component having a polyol with a hydroxyl equivalent weight of

at least 500, and a catalyst component having an isocyanate trimerization catalyst, and at least partially curing the reaction mixture to form a polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a glass transition temperature of at least 80°C. The method also includes (b) exposing the substrate and the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C.

Detailed Description

A polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer in the form of a coating may be formulated to maintain its properties even when immersed in high temperature water, e.g., when immersed in water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C. The polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a glass transition temperature of at least 80°C. According to exemplary embodiments, the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer increases as a result of exposure to a high temperature (e.g., a temperature of at least 70°C) while being immersed in water. This effect is very surprising and not easily accounted for, and is contrary to the performance of phenolic-formaldehyde resins.

According to exemplary embodiments, a stage (a) in a method of forming the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer includes curing a reaction mixture, which includes an aromatic polyisocyanate component, a polyol component having a polyol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, and a catalyst component having an isocyanate trimerization catalyst, in which reaction mixture the isocyanate index is at least 10. The polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer formed according to exemplary embodiments, is highly resistant to the conditions encountered in immersion in water at elevated temperatures. Accordingly, after curing the reaction mixture that forms the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer, a stage (b) includes exposure of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C. The high temperature water exposure stage (b) may be performed during the use of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer in its intended application, or as a separate manufacturing stage unconnected

to its ultimate use. Full curing of the reaction mixture in stage (a) may be performed prior to stage (b) or concurrently with stage (b), e.g., the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer in stage (a) may only be partially cured prior to being exposed to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C.

The reaction mixture in stage (a) includes an aromatic polyisocyanate component that has at least one aromatic polyisocyanate. The aromatic polyisocyanate may have an average isocyanate functionality from 1.9 to 4 (e.g., 2.0 to 3.5, 2.8 to 3.2, etc.). The aromatic polyisocyanate may have an average isocyanate equivalent weight from 80 to 160 (e.g., 120 to 150, 125 to 145, etc.).

Exemplary aromatic polyisocyanates include m-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4- and/or 2,6-toluene diisocyanate (TDI), the various isomers of diphenylmethanediisocyanate (MDI), naphthylene-1,5-diisocyanate, methoxyphenyl-2,4-diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenyl diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyldiphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 4,4',4''-triphenylmethane tri-isocyanate, polymethylene polyphenylisocyanates, toluene-2,4,6-triisocyanate, and 4,4'-dimethyl diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate.

Derivatives of any of the foregoing that have, e.g., at least one selected from the group of urea, urethane, carbodiimide, biuret, allophanate, and uretonimine linkages, are also useful. According to exemplary embodiments, the reaction mixture of stage (a) includes at least one selected from the group of MDI, so-called 'polymeric MDI' products that are mixtures of MDI and polymethylene polyphenylisocyanates, and derivatives of MDI such as biuret- and/or allophanate-modified "liquid" MDI products, and other MDI derivatives that have, e.g., urea, urethane, carbodiimide, biuret, allophanate and uretonimine linkages.

The reaction mixture in stage (b) also includes a polyol component that includes at least one polyol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500. In some embodiments, the hydroxyl equivalent weight is from 500 to 20,000 (e.g., 800 to 5,000, etc.). The polyol contains from 1 to 8 hydroxyl groups per molecule, e.g., from 2 to 4 hydroxyl groups per molecule. The polyol may have a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, at least 800, or at least 1,000.

The polyol may include an alkoxyate of any of the following molecules, e.g., ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, glycerin, trimethylolpropane, trimethylolethane, pentaerythritol, erythritol, sorbitol, sucrose, cyclohexanedimethanol, triethanolamine, and the like. The alkoxyate may be formed by adding at least one selected from the group of propylene oxide, ethylene oxide, and butylene oxide (such as 1,2-butylene oxide and 1,4-butylene oxide) to the respective polyol. According to an exemplary embodiment, the alkoxyate may contain up to 20 wt%, up to 25 wt%, up to 30 wt%, up to 35 wt%, or up to 40% of ethylene oxide based on a total weight of the alkoxyate. According to another exemplary embodiment, the polyol contains a terminal ethylene oxide block.

Alkoxyates of ammonia or primary or secondary amine compounds such as aniline, toluene diamine, ethylene diamine, diethylene triamine, piperazine, aminoethylpiperazine, and the like, which have a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, at least 800, or at least 1,000 are also useful. The alkoxyate may have a hydroxyl equivalent weight of up to 5000, or up to 10,000.

Polyester polyols having a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, at least 800, or at least 1,000 are also useful.

Polyols with fillers (filled polyols) may be used as well, where the hydroxyl equivalent weight is at least 500, at least 800, or at least 1,000. The filled polyols may contain one or more copolymer polyols with polymer particles as a filler dispersed within the copolymer polyols. Exemplary filled polyols include styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN) based filled polyols, polyharnstoff dispersion (PHD) filled polyols, and polyisocyanate polyaddition products (PIPA) based filled polyols. For example, filled polyols are taught in *Chemistry and Technology of Polyols for Polyurethanes*, Rapra Technology Limited, 2005, pages 185-227, and are taught in Herrington and Hock, *Flexible Polyurethane Foams*, The Dow Chemical Company, 1991, pages 2.10-2.14. Also, filled polyols such as mechanically dispersed copolymer polyol may be used, e.g., as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2011/0213044.

In certain embodiments, one or more copolymer polyols (e.g., copolymer polyols that are known in the art) contain dispersed styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN)

particles dispersed therein, and the dispersed polymer particles may be obtained by in-situ polymerization of acrylonitrile and styrene. For example, the one or more copolymer polyols contain from 20 wt% to 50 wt% (e.g., 30 wt% to 40 wt%, 35 wt% to 40 wt%, etc.) of solid styrene acrylonitrile particles, based on a total weight of the filled polyol. The styrene acrylonitrile particles may have a particle size from 1 to 2 microns. The carrier polyol for the copolymer polyols may have a nominal functionality of 2 or 3 (e.g., the copolymer polyols may be a triol).

One or more of the aforementioned polyols may be used in combination, with a combined number average hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, at least 800, or at least 1,000.

The isocyanate index of the reaction mixture that includes the aromatic polyisocyanate and the one or more polyols is at least 10, and may be at least 20, at least 50, at least 100, at least 150, at least 200, at least 250, or at least 300. Isocyanate index here is the stoichiometric ratio of the isocyanate functional groups to the active hydrogens in the polyol/isocyanate formulation. The aromatic polyisocyanate should contain an average of at least 2 (e.g., from 2 to 3.5) isocyanate groups per molecule.

According to embodiments, the reaction mixture including the polyisocyanate component and the polyol component are cured in the presence of a catalyst component, which includes an isocyanate trimerization catalyst. Although the aromatic polyisocyanate may possibly be cured by itself, the reaction mixture may be cured using a trimerization catalyst. A polyol in the polyol component (e.g., a filled polyol) may be a reactive carrier for the trimerization catalyst. For example, instead of using an inert carrier (or no carrier) for the trimerization catalyst, a polyol used in the formation of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer may act as a reactive carrier of the trimerization catalyst. The catalyst component may optionally include a urethane catalyst, i.e., a catalyst for the reaction of an isocyanate with a hydroxyl group, may be used in addition to the trimerization catalyst. For example, when the polyol does not have any primary hydroxyl groups, the urethane catalyst may be included in the catalyst component.

Trimerization catalysts include, e.g., strong bases such as alkali metal phenolates, alkali metal alkoxides, alkali metal carboxylates, quaternary ammonium

salts, and the like. Among the alkali metal trimerization catalysts are sodium p-nonylphenolate, sodium p-octyl phenolate, sodium p-tert-butyl phenolate, sodium formate, sodium acetate, sodium propionate, sodium butyrate, sodium 2-ethylhexanoate, glycine N-[(2-hydroxy-5-nonylphenyl)methyl]- N-methyl-

5 monosodium salt, potassium p-nonylphenolate, potassium p-octyl phenolate, potassium p-tert-butyl phenolate, potassium formate, potassium acetate, potassium propionate, potassium butyrate, potassium 2-ethylhexanoate, glycine N-[(2-hydroxy-5-nonylphenyl)methyl]- N-methyl- monopotassium salt, cesium p-nonylphenolate, cesium p-octyl phenolate, cesium p-tert-butyl phenolate, cesium formate, cesium

10 acetate, cesium propionate, cesium butyrate, cesium 2-ethylhexanoate and glycine N-[(2-hydroxy-5-nonylphenyl)methyl]- N-methyl- monocesium salt. Among the useful ammonium salts are (2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium 2-ethylhexanoate, (2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium formate and the like. Aminophenolic compounds such as N,N',N''-tris(3-dimethylaminopropyl)hexahydro-s-triazine are also useful

15 trimerization catalysts. Imidazolium or imidazolinium salts may also be used as trimerization catalysts, such as 1-ethyl, 2-methyl-imidazolium acetate, 1,3-di-tert-butyl-imidazolinium acetate, 1,3-diadamantyl-imidazolium acetate, 1,3-diisopropyl-imidazolium acetate 1,3-di-tert-butyl-imidazolium acetate, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium acetate, and others disclosed (e.g., as disclosed in U.S. Patent

20 Publication No. 2011/0020170). For example, the alkali metal and/or ammonium compounds may be used.

Examples of urethane catalysts include various amines, tin carboxylates, organotin compounds, tertiary phosphines, various metal chelates, metal salts of strong acids (such as ferric chloride, stannic chloride, stannous chloride, antimony trichloride,

25 bismuth nitrate, and bismuth chloride), and the like. For example, the amine and tin catalysts may be used. The amine catalysts may not contain amine hydrogens.

Amine catalysts include, e.g., trimethylamine, triethylamine, N-methylmorpholine, N-ethylmorpholine, N,N-dimethylbenzylamine, N,N-dimethylethanolamine, N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1,4-butanediamine, N,N-

30 dimethylpiperazine, 1,4-diazobicyclo-2,2,2-octane, bis(dimethylaminoethyl)ether, bis(2-dimethylaminoethyl) ether, morpholine, 4,4'-(oxydi-2,1-ethanediyl)bis,

triethylenediamine, pentamethyl diethylene triamine, dimethyl cyclohexyl amine, N-cetyl N,N-dimethyl amine, N-coco-morpholine, N,N-dimethyl aminomethyl N-methyl ethanol amine, N, N, N'-trimethyl-N'-hydroxyethyl bis(aminoethyl) ether, N,N-bis(3-dimethylaminopropyl)N-isopropanolamine, (N,N-dimethyl) amino-ethoxy ethanol, N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl hexane diamine, 1,8-diazabicyclo-5,4,0-undecene-7, N,N-dimorpholinodiethyl ether, N-methyl imidazole, dimethyl aminopropyl dipropanolamine, bis(dimethylaminopropyl)amino-2-propanol, tetramethylamino bis(propylamine), (dimethyl(aminoethoxyethyl))((dimethyl amine)ethyl)ether, tris(dimethylamino propyl) amine, dicyclohexyl methyl amine, bis(N,N-dimethyl-3-aminopropyl) amine, 1,2-ethylene piperidine, and methyl-hydroxyethyl piperazine.

Useful tin-containing catalysts include, e.g., stannous octoate, dibutyl tin diacetate, dibutyl tin dilaurate, dibutyl tin dimercaptide, dialkyl tin dialkylmercapto acids, dibutyl tin oxide, dimethyl tin dimercaptide, dimethyl tin diisooctylmercaptoacetate, and the like.

The trimerization catalyst may be present, e.g., in an amount from 0.01 to 15 parts (e.g., 0.05 to 1, 0.1 to 0.5, etc.) by weight, based on a total of 100 parts of the combined weight of the polyisocyanate component and the polyol component. The urethane catalyst, when present, may be present in similar amounts as the trimerization catalyst, e.g., in an amount from 0.01 to 15 parts (e.g., 0.05 to 1, 0.1 to 0.5, etc.) by weight, based on the total of 100 parts of the combined weight of the polyisocyanate component and the polyol component.

Various optional ingredients may be included in the reaction mixture during stage (a) of the process. For example, reinforcing agents such as fibers and flakes that have an aspect ratio (ratio of largest to smallest orthogonal dimension) of at least 5 may be used. These fibers and flakes may be, e.g., an inorganic material such as glass, mica, other ceramic fibers and flakes, carbon fibers, organic polymer fibers that are non-melting and thermally stable at the temperatures encountered in stages (a) and (b) of this process (such as polyamide fibers), and the like. Another useful optional ingredient is a low aspect ratio particulate filler. Such a filler may be, e.g., sand, clay, other minerals, or an organic polymer that is non-melting and thermally stable at the

temperatures encountered in stages (a) and (b) of the process. Such a particulate filler has a particle size (as measured by sieving methods) of less than 100 μm .

Another optional ingredient includes a liquid epoxy resin. The liquid epoxy resin may be added in amounts up to 20 wt% , based on the total weight of the reaction mixture. Exemplary liquid epoxy resins include the glycidyl polyethers of polyhydric phenols and polyhydric alcohols. For example, the diglycidyl ethers of resorcinol, catechol, hydroquinone, bisphenol, bisphenol A, bisphenol AP (1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenyl ethane), bisphenol F, bisphenol K, tetrabromobisphenol A, phenol-formaldehyde novolac resins, alkyl substituted phenol-formaldehyde resins, phenol-hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, cresol-hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, dicyclopentadiene-phenol resins, dicyclopentadiene-substituted phenol resins tetramethylbiphenol, tetramethyl-tetrabromobiphenol, tetramethyltribromobiphenol, tetrachlorobisphenol A, and any combination thereof may be included in the reaction mixture.

The liquid epoxy resin may be a diepoxide. Examples of diepoxides that may be added to the reaction mixture include diglycidyl ether of 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) propane (generally referred to as bisphenol A) and diglycidyl ether of 2,2-bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl) propane (generally referred to as tetrabromobisphenol A). Mixtures of any two or more diepoxides may be used. Other diepoxides that may be employed include the diglycidyl ethers of dihydric phenols, such as those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,246,751; 5,115,075; 5,089,588; 4,480,082 and 4,438,254. Further, the diglycidyl esters of dicarboxylic acids such as those described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,171,820, may be employed. Other suitable diepoxides include, e.g., $\alpha\omega$ -diglycidylloxyisopropylidene-bisphenol-based epoxy resins such as those commercially known as D.E.R.® 300 and 600 series epoxy resins (available from The Dow Chemical Company).

Still other useful optional ingredients include colorants, biocides, UV stabilizing agents, preservatives, antioxidants, surfactants, and the like. Although it is possible to include a blowing agent into the reaction mixture, in some embodiments the blowing agent is excluded from the reaction mixture.

The polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer formed in stage (a) may be a substantially non-cellular polymer having a density of at least 500 kg/m³, at least 750 kg/m³, or at least 950 kg/m³. For example, the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer formed in stage (a) may have a density up to 1,000 kg/m³. The density of the polymer has been found to change at most insignificantly during stage (b). Therefore, in exemplary embodiments the polymer obtained from stages (b) of the process also is substantially non-cellular as well, and has a density of at least 500 kg/m³, at least 750 kg/m³, or at least 950 kg/m³.

The aromatic polyisocyanate(s) or mixture thereof with the polyol(s) is cured in stage (a). For example, methods for performing such polymerizations that are known in the art may be used. According to exemplary embodiments, the reactants and catalysts as described above are combined, and then heated to an elevated temperature at which the trimerization of isocyanate groups proceeds. The elevated temperature may be, e.g., at least 50°C (and may be up to 180°C).

The glass transition temperature of the polymer obtained from this first polymerization stage is at least 80°C, at least 120°C, at least 160°C, or at least 180°C. According to an exemplary embodiment, the glass transition temperature may be as high as 250°C, e.g., the glass transition temperature after stage (a) may be in a range between 160°C to 250°C (e.g., 180°C to 245°C, 200°C to 235°C, 210°C to 225°C, etc.). The glass transition temperature is measured by dynamic mechanical thermal analysis (DMTA) at an oscillation frequency of 1 Hertz and a heating scan rate at 3°C/second from 20°C to 200°C. The temperature corresponding to the peak of the tan delta curve is taken as the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the specimen tested.

The polymerization in stage (a) may be performed in various ways. If a molded product is desired, the reaction mixture may be introduced into a suitable mold and cured therein. The reaction mixture may be applied onto the surface of any suitable substrate and cured thereon to form a coating thereon. The reaction mixture may be used to impregnate a substrate material or a reinforcing material, and then cured in the presence of the substrate to form a composite.

This polymerization in stage (a) may be performed in two or more sub-steps. For example, the reaction mixture may be cured to its gel point in a first sub-step,

advancing the cure enough to form a semi-solid or solid material that may be manipulated and/or further shaped prior to a subsequent curing sub-step that leads to the development of a high glass transition temperature polymer as described before. This method is suitable, e.g., for forming various types of reinforced composites. This method is also amenable for making molded products. The reaction mixture may be polymerized in a mold until the polymer has obtained sufficient strength to allow it to be demolded without permanent distortion or damage, and then post-cured outside of the mold to complete the polymerization step.

The polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer obtained from stage (a) is exposed to water at superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C in a stage (b). The temperature during stage (b) may be as high as 180°C (e.g., but may not exceed 160° and/or is up to 140°C. According to an exemplary embodiment, the temperature during stage (b) is from 100°C to 130°C. The pressure in stage (b) is greater than 1 atmosphere (101.325 kPa) and may be any higher value. However, pressures greater than 100 atmospheres may not provide additional benefit. The pressure may range from, e.g., 150 kPa to 5000 kPa, 200 kPa to 5000 kPa, etc.

In stage (b), the water may be provided in the form of a liquid and/or a gas. If provided as a gas, the atmosphere may be saturated or super-saturated with water. At least a part of the water may be provided as a liquid. If the temperature is 100°C or above, the superatmospheric pressure may be sufficient to maintain the water at least partially as a liquid.

The treatment time for stage (b) of the process may range from, e.g., an hour to many days or longer. Stage (b) may be performed continuously during the entire length of use of the material. If stage (b) is performed separately, it may be performed, for example for a period of one hour to 15 days (e.g., from a period being 12 hours to 10 days). According to exemplary embodiments, stage (b) is performed for a period of time sufficient to increase the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer, by at least 5°C.

Stage (b) of the process may be performed as a separate production step, i.e., as a manufacturing step that is performed apart from and prior to the use of the polymer in its intended application. However, in many cases, stage (b) is performed in the course

of the ordinary use of the polymer. For example, the polymer may be used under high temperature, superatmospheric humid or aqueous conditions, which satisfy the requirements of stage (b) of the process. As before, if the water is in the form of a gas, the gas may be saturated or super-saturated with the water. Examples of such end uses include autoclavable coatings, piping or other conduits for hot aqueous fluids (such as undersea production conduits), chemical process piping, cooling water conduits, or other applications in which the product is exposed to conditions of high temperature and high humidity or liquid water.

A surprising feature of embodiments is that the polymer formed in stage (a) is quite resistant to the loss of physical properties upon exposure to water and high temperatures as seen in stage (b). Often, the glass transition temperature of the polymer actually increases during stage (b), which is quite surprising and unexpected. This increase in glass transition temperature is not easily accounted for. Even when the glass transition temperature does not increase, it may remain nearly constant or at most decrease only slightly. Typically, the polyisocyanurate or polyisocyanurate-urethane polymer obtained after stage (b) has a glass transition temperature of at least 150°C, and may be from 160 to 250°C (e.g., from 160 to 220°C).

The polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer is formed as a coating onto a substrate. The substrate may be any convenient size and geometry ranging from large blocks to fibers to particulates (such as sand particles, ceramic based particles, bauxite particles, and glass beads). Such a particulate substrate may have a particle size as measured by sieving methods of at least 100 µm. The coating of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer may be formed by applying the reaction mixture as described above to a surface or surfaces of the substrate, and the performing stages (a) and (b) as described above while the reaction mixture is on the substrate surface(s). Such a coating operation may be performed in a mold (which is suitable for larger substrates) or may be performed using various spraying, painting or other coating techniques to apply the reaction mixture to the surface of the substrate. According to exemplary embodiments, the substrate may be coated by immersion in the reaction mixture.

To form a coated particulate, the reaction mixture may be applied to the substrate using any convenient method including those described above. Stage (a) of the process may then be performed by separating the reaction mixture-coated particles before performing the polymerization, and/or by agitating the substrate particles as the reaction mixture cures to prevent unwanted agglomeration. It is also possible to perform stage (a) on the reaction mixture-coated particles to form an agglomerated or partially agglomerated mass, which is then broken into individual pieces after stage (a) or stage (b) is completed.

A wide variety of materials may be used as such a substrate. All that is sought is that the substrate is a solid under the conditions of the coating process, and that the substrate does not dissolve or undesirably degrade or react under the conditions of the curing reaction. The substrate may react with one or more components of the reaction mixture, to form bonds between the substrate and the coating. Examples of substrates include, e.g., metals, ceramic materials, sand, clay, rock, stone, other organic polymers, wood, organic or inorganic fertilizer particles, other plant material, various composites materials, and the like. The coating thickness may range, e.g., from 0.1 μm to 15 cm or more, as desirable for the particular application. In specific applications, the coating thickness may be from 100 μm to 2.5 mm, or from 250 μm to 1 mm.

According to an exemplary embodiment, a reaction mixture as described before is applied to a substrate that is a fibrous reinforcement and then polymerized by performing stage (a) to form a fiber-reinforced composite. The fiber-reinforced composite in such a case will have a polymer phase, and a fiber phase that includes the fibrous reinforcement. The fiber phase is embedded in and bound together by the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer phase formed by polymerizing the reaction mixture. Such a fiber-reinforced composite is useful, e.g., as a conduit (such as for hot aqueous fluids and various gases and liquids), as a substrate for circuit boards, as a structural component (such as for vehicles, tools, and mechanized equipment), and the like. In making such composites, stage (b) may be performed during the normal use of the composite, in cases in which such use subjects the composite to conditions of temperature, pressure, and moisture as described herein. Alternatively, stage (b) may be performed as a separate manufacturing step.

Examples

The following examples are provided to illustrate exemplary embodiments, and are not intended to limit the scope thereof. All parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

5

The following materials are principally used in the mixtures:

	POLYOL A	A poly(propylene oxide) triol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 85.
10	POLYOL B	A poly(propylene oxide) diol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 1,000.
	POLYOL C	A poly(propylene oxide) diol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 2000.
15	POLYOL D	A poly(propylene oxide) diol that has a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 4000.
	POLYOL E	A glycerol initiated propoxylated polyether polyol, having a nominal functionality of 3, a 15 percent ethylene oxide capping, and a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 2040.
20	FILLED POLYOL A	A polymer polyol containing dispersed polymer particles obtained by in-situ polymerization of acrylonitrile and styrene with a hydroxyl equivalent weight of approximately 2700, with a solids content of approximately 40 wt% (available from The Dow Chemical Company as DNC 701.01 Developmental Polyol).
25		

	FILLED POLYOL B	A polymer polyol containing dispersed polymer particles obtained by in-situ polymerization of acrylonitrile and styrene with a hydroxyl equivalent weight of approximately 1800, with a solids content of approximately 40 wt% (available from The Dow Chemical Company as VORALUX™ HL 431).
5	POLYISOCYANATE A	A polymeric MDI having an isocyanate equivalent weight of 136.5 and a nominal isocyanate functionality of 3.0.
10	Trimerization Catalyst A	A (2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium 2-ethylhexanoate salt solution in ethylene glycol (available from Air Products and Chemicals as DABCO® TMR catalyst).
15	Urethane Catalyst A	A dibutyltin dilaurate catalyst (available from Air Products and Chemicals as DABCO® T-12).

Polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymers are prepared in the following general process:

For stage (a), the polyol (as shown in Tables 1 and 2, below) is charged into the mixing cup of a high-speed laboratory mixer (FlackTek SpeedMixer). The respect
 20 catalyst(s) from Tables 1 and 2, below, are then added and mixed thoroughly into the polyol at 800 rpm for 5 seconds, followed by 2000 rpm for 10 seconds. The corresponding polyisocyanate from Tables 1 and 2, below, is then added into the mixing cup and mixed with the other components at the same mixing condition. The resulting reaction mixture is emptied onto a circular steel mold 14 cm in diameter and
 25 0.5 cm deep, which has been previously sprayed with a mold release agent (STONER E236 mold release from Stoner Inc., of Quarryville, Pennsylvania). The amount of the reaction mixture in each case is 30 to 40 grams. The reaction mixture is allowed to cure without applied heat until it has cured enough to demold. The resulting molding is then, in each case, postcured under conditions of time and temperature as is indicated
 30 below in Table 1 (this process is termed “postcure”).

Samples are cut from each molding (we also refer to these as the postcured samples). Specimens from the postcured samples are taken to dynamic mechanical thermal analysis (DMTA). DMTA measurements are made using an oscillation frequency of 1 sec^{-1} and a heating rate of $3^\circ\text{C}/\text{minute}$. The glass transition temperature is taken in each case as the peak of the tan delta curve (peak tan delta T_g , or simply T_g). The storage modulus is measured at 50°C and 121°C . The corrected G' is reported, where the G' at 121°C is adjusted by a factor such that the G' at 50°C would be corrected to $1 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa}$. This is to account for the uneven surface of some of the plaques. The corrected value is reported as "Corrected $121^\circ\text{C } G'$."

Stage (b), which we term "humid aging," is performed on samples cut from the moldings made in stage (a). The samples are immersed in deionized water in a 1-gallon Parr reactor. The headspace is charged to 500 psi with nitrogen and released three times to purge out residual oxygen. The headspace is then charged again to 500 psi with nitrogen and sealed. The sealed reactor is then heated to 121°C , and held there for seven days. At 121°C , the chamber pressure is approximately 650 psi. The reactor contents are allowed to come to room temperature. The samples are then removed and submerged in deionized water in a 50°C oven until taken for DMTA analysis as with the postcured samples. Samples are removed from the 50°C water bath immediately before DMTA analysis- such samples are referred to as humid aged. Glass transition temperature is measured, as is the storage modulus G' at both 50°C and 121°C .

The formulations and test results for Comparative Examples A, B, and C, and for Examples 1, 2, and 3, are given in Table 1, below.

Table 1

	Comp. Example A	Comp. Example B	Comp. Example C	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Formulation	Parts by Weight					
Polyol A	21.0	16.0				
Polyol B			30.2	3.8		
Polyol C					3.8	
Polyol D						3.8
Polyisocyanate A	29.5	29.6	6.4	30.0	30.0	30.0
Trimerization Catalyst A	0	0	0	0.50	0.50	0.50
Urethane Catalyst A	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.10
Isocyanate Index	0.88	1.15	1.55	58	116	231
Postcure temperature (°C)/time (min)	80/30	147/33	80/10	120/60	120/60	120/60
Properties						
T _g after postcure (°C)	158	162	-39	153	90	93
Corrected 121°C G' on postcured sample (10 ⁸ Pa)	3.0	6.6	Too soft to measure	6.9	7.5	8.3
T _g after humid aging (°C)	105	128	n/a	202	248	220
Corrected 121°C G' on humid aged sample (10 ⁸ Pa)	0.1	0.3	n/a	3.9	7.3	7.6

Comparative Examples A and B show the effect of using a low equivalent weight polyol (i.e., Polyol A having a hydroxyl equivalent weight of 85) with an isocyanate index of near 1 to obtain a hard plaque in the dry condition. It is seen that after humid aging, the modulus dropped significantly, to below 1×10^8 Pa. The results show a drop in the peak tan delta T_g of 53 °C for Comparative Example A and a drop of 34 °C for Comparative Example B. Comparative Example C shows a case where a high equivalent weight polyol was used at an isocyanate index of near 1. In that case, the postcured sample had a very low T_g of -39 °C, and the material is too soft for the

modulus at 121°C to be measured. The material could not be evaluated in humid aging because of this softness. In all these cases, the postcure temperatures and time are chosen to achieve high level of isocyanate conversion.

With Examples 1-3 the benefit of using higher equivalent weight polyol at high isocyanate index is shown. In each case, the polyols are difunctional and hydroxyl equivalent weight of 1000 or higher. The T_g of the postcured material is 90°C or above, and above 6×10^8 Pa for the modulus at 121 °C. After humid aging, the glass transition temperature of Examples 1-3 materials actually increased, very substantially, to above 200 °C. This value is much higher than any of the other samples (Comparative Examples A, B, and C). Corrected 121°C G' after humid aging also increased, which is contrary to the behavior of Comparative Examples A, B, and C.

The formulations and test results for Examples 4-7 are given in Table 2, below.

Table 2

	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7
Formulation	Parts by Weight			
Polyol E	2.5	3.8		
Filled Polyol A			2.5	
Filled Polyol B				2.5
Polyisocyanate A	30	30	30	30
Trimerization Catalyst A	0.30	0.26	0.30	0.50
Urethane Catalyst A	0	0	0	0.04
Isocyanate Index	179	118	235	159
Postcure temperature (°C)/time (min)	120/60	120/60	120/60	120/60
Properties				
T_g after postcure (°C)	172	163	230	160
Corrected 121°C G' on postcured sample (10^8 Pa)	7.8	8.7	7.1	7.4
T_g after humid aging (°C)	207	231	235	192
Corrected 121°C G' on humid aged sample (10^8 Pa)	5.5	6.8	6.2	3.7

For Examples 4 and 5, the polyol (Polyol E) is a trifunctional polyether polyol with mainly primary hydroxyl end groups. For Examples 6 and 7, the polyols are filled polyols. The T_g of the postcured samples in Examples 4-7 was 160 °C or above, and above 7×10^8 Pa for the modulus at 121 °C. After humid aging, the T_g for each of Examples 4-7 increased. This value is much higher than Comparative Examples A, B,

and C. Corrected 121°C G' also increased after humid aging, which is contrary to the behavior of the Comparative Examples A, B, and C.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for exposing a substrate to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C, the method comprising:
 - (a) applying a reaction mixture to a substrate, which reaction mixture has an isocyanate index of at least 10 and includes an aromatic polyisocyanate component, a polyol component having a polyol with a hydroxyl equivalent weight of at least 500, and a catalyst component having an isocyanate trimerization catalyst, and at least partially curing the reaction mixture to form a polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a glass transition temperature of at least 80°C, and
 - (b) exposing the substrate and the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer to water under superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of at least 70°C.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyol is a filled polyol or a polyester polyol.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polyol is a reactive carrier for the isocyanate trimerization catalyst.
4. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein stage (a) is performed in the absence of a blowing agent to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 750 kg/m³.
5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein stage (a) is performed in the absence of a blowing agent to produce the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer having a density of at least 950 kg/m³.
6. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 750 kg/m³.

7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein after stage (b) the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer has a density of at least 950 kg/m³.

5

8. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-7, wherein the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer is between 80°C to 250°C.

10 9. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, wherein, in stage (a) the substrate is a fibrous reinforcement that is then cured to form a fiber-reinforced composite that includes a fiber phase in which the fibrous reinforcement is embedded in and bound together by the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer.

15 10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-9, wherein the temperature in stage (b) is up to 180°C.

11. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1- 9, wherein the temperature in stage (b) is from 80°C to 130°C.

20

12. The method of as claimed in any one of claims 1- 11, wherein the pressure in stage (b) is from 150 kPa to 5,000 kPa.

13. The method of as claimed in any one of claims 1- 12, wherein, the water
25 in stage (b) is at least partially in the form of a liquid.

14. The method of as claimed in any one of claims 1- 13, wherein stage (b) is performed for a period of time sufficient to increase the glass transition temperature of the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer by at least 5°C.

30

15. The method of as claimed in any one of claims 1- 14, wherein stage (b) is performed during the use of the substrate and the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer in an intended application.

- 5 16. The method of as claimed in any one of claims 1- 13, wherein stage (b) is performed as a separate manufacturing stage from the use of the substrate and the polyisocyanurate or polyurethane-isocyanurate polymer in an intended application.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2014/045854

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. C08G18/48 C08G18/76 C08G18/09 C08G18/40 C08G18/18 C08G18/16 C08G18/24 C08G18/30 C08G18/79 C08J5/04 C08G18/10		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C08G C08J		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 654 385 A1 (NAT STARCH CHEM SA [FR]) 17 May 1991 (1991-05-17) page 8; example I	1,4-16
X	----- US 2003/224179 A1 (SKINNER CHRISTOPHER JOHN [DE] ET AL) 4 December 2003 (2003-12-04) example 6 paragraph [0022] ----- -/-	1-16
☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 5 December 2014		Date of mailing of the international search report 16/12/2014
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Lartigue, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2014/045854

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	IVAN JAVNI ET AL: "Soybean oil based polyisocyanurate cast resins", JOURNAL OF APPLIED POLYMER SCIENCE, vol. 90, no. 12, 13 December 2003 (2003-12-13), pages 3333-3337, XP055126245, ISSN: 0021-8995, DOI: 10.1002/app.13080 abstract Experimental part -----	1-16
X	WO 2007/096216 A1 (HUNTSMAN INT LLC [US]; BLEYS GERHARD JOZEF [BE]; HUYGENS ERIC [BE]; RO) 30 August 2007 (2007-08-30) page 1, lines 1-8, 18-29 page 7, line 29 - page 9, line 18 page 11, lines 1-20 page 4, line 29 - page 5, line 5 Examples, pages 12-14 -----	1-16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2014/045854

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
FR 2654385	A1	17-05-1991	NONE

US 2003224179	A1	04-12-2003	AU 9558301 A 06-05-2002
		CA 2426397 A1 02-05-2002	
		CN 1481404 A 10-03-2004	
		EP 1201696 A1 02-05-2002	
		EP 1330482 A1 30-07-2003	
		PL 360779 A1 20-09-2004	
		RU 2279447 C2 10-07-2006	
		US 2003224179 A1 04-12-2003	
		WO 0234810 A1 02-05-2002	

WO 2007096216	A1	30-08-2007	AT 474870 T 15-08-2010
		AU 2007217657 A1 30-08-2007	
		BR PI0707479 A2 03-05-2011	
		CA 2636621 A1 30-08-2007	
		CN 101389675 A 18-03-2009	
		EP 1989242 A1 12-11-2008	
		JP 5159640 B2 06-03-2013	
		JP 2009527585 A 30-07-2009	
		KR 20080106521 A 08-12-2008	
		US 2009005517 A1 01-01-2009	
		WO 2007096216 A1 30-08-2007	

Power of Attorney

Poder

The undersigned,

El suscrito,

Dow Global Technologies LLC

domiciled in

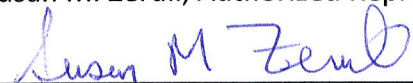
domiciliado en

2040 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48674

by means of this document hereby grants to **J. Ian Raisbeck, identified with Citizenship Identification No. 79.376.996 and Professional Card No. 135.799, and/or Natalia Castro, identified with Citizenship Identification No. 52.008.577 and Professional Card No. 70.997**, full and sufficient Power of Attorney to file, prosecute, obtain, defend and enforce, where applicable, any and all of the company's **Patents for Inventions, Patents for Utility Models, Layout-Designs (topographies) of Integrated Circuits, Industrial Designs, Trademarks, Slogans, Trade Names, Commercial Emblems, Geographical Indications, Obtainer's Certificates, Copyrights, Domain Names, Trade Secrets, Health Registrations, or any other intellectual property right** in the Republic of Colombia, to which end it empowers them to take all steps necessary before any administrative or judicial authority of any class for the objects stated, to file petitions, recourses, replies and oppositions, pay taxes and annuities, request testimonies, receive documents and securities, abandon applications, collect refunds, desist, settle, conciliate or negotiate. Sufficient power is hereby granted to receive notifications on behalf of the Company, to answer before any authority in the matter of all claims and demands that may be presented in connection with the objects stated, giving them likewise power to substitute this power and revoke such substitutions.

por medio del presente otorga a **J. Ian Raisbeck, identificado con Cédula de Ciudadanía No. 79.376.996 y con Tarjeta Profesional 135.799, y/o Natalia Castro, identificada con Cédula de Ciudadanía No. 52.008.577 y con Tarjeta Profesional No. 70.997**, poder amplio y suficiente para presentar, tramitar, obtener, defender y hacer respetar, en lo aplicable, todas y cualquiera de las **Patentes de Invención, Patentes de Modelo de Utilidad, Esquemas de Trazados de Circuitos Integrados, Diseños Industriales, Marcas, Lemas Comerciales, Nombres Comerciales, Enseñas Comerciales, Denominaciones de Origen, Certificados de Obtentor, Derechos de Autor, Nombres de Dominio, Secretos Empresariales, Registros Sanitarios, o cualquier otro bien de propiedad intelectual** de la compañía en la República de Colombia, a cuyo efecto los faculta para dar todos los pasos necesarios ante cualquier autoridad administrativa o judicial de cualquier jerarquía para cumplir con lo encomendado, elevar solicitudes, recursos, respuestas y oposiciones, pagar impuestos y anualidades, solicitar testimonios, recibir documentos y valores, desistir, transigir, y percibir. Se concede poder bastante para recibir notificaciones a nombre de la compañía, responder ante cualquier autoridad a todas las reclamaciones o demandas que por motivo de lo encomendado se presentaren, dándoles asimismo facultad para sustituir el presente y revocar dichas sustituciones.

Name/Nombre: Susan M. Zerull, Authorized Representative

Signature/Firma: 

Date/Fecha: January 21, 2016

City/Country/Ciudad,País: Midland, Michigan USA

RESUMEN DE LA INVENCION

La presente invención se refiere a un método para exponer un sustrato al agua a presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C que incluye

5 (a) aplicar una mezcla de reacción a un sustrato, la mezcla de reacción tiene un índice de isocianato de al menos 10 e incluye un componente de poliisocianato aromático, un componente de poliol que tiene un poliol con un peso

10 equivalente de hidroxilo de al menos 500, y un componente de catalizador que tiene un catalizador de trimerización de isocianato, y curar al menos parcialmente la mezcla de reacción para formar un polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato que tiene una temperatura de

15 transición vítrea de al menos 80°C, y (b) exponer el sustrato y el polímero de poliisocianurato o poliuretano-isocianurato al agua bajo presión superior a la atmosférica a una temperatura de al menos 70°C.

20

25