An Investigation of Applying Both Dry- and Wet-strength Agents to Papermaking Wet End and the Effects on Paper Bulk ...

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated different doses and modes of applying dry- and wet-strength chemicals of different charge characteristics; the 3 modes deployed included single chemical addition, sequential chemical addition, and pre-mixed chemical addition. The experimental results indicated that at the phase I single chemical addition, adding wet-strength agent caused ca. 5% variation in paper bulk; tensile index of the paper increased 23%; and tear index increased 37%. When dry-strength agent was added, the paper bulk varied by 2%; tensile index of the paper increased 26%; and tearing index also increased 37%. Results of this phase suggested that adding wet-strength agent had better paper bulk advantage than that of dry-strength agent. In addition, along with increased doses, tensile and tear index of the paper also gradually increased; change in paper bulk, however, tended to level off with the chemical doses. In phase II, the wet-strength agent was reacted with pulp stock first, and then dry-strength agent added subsequently. The paper bulk showed a gain of 6%; paper tensile index increased 30%; and tear index increased 46%. Conversely when dry-strength agent was added first and then add the wet-strength agent, the paper bulked increased 4%; paper tensile index increased 20%; and tear index increased 32%. Thus, the results suggested that adding wet-strength agent first, dry-strength agent second would confer better benefits to paper bulk, tensile index and tear index than did the reverse order of addition. In phase III of the study, the dry- and wet-strength chemicals were premixed and added to pulp. Pouring dry-strength agent to wet-strength agent before mixing with pulp produced 6% bulk gain, 23% tensile index increase, and 37% increase in tear index in the resulting paper. The reverse order of premixing wet-strength agent with the dry-strength one led to paper bulking gain of 5%; tensile index increase of 20%; and tear index increase of 41%. The results suggested that premix the 2 chemicals before addition produced benefits in paper bulk and tensile index than those of single additions. Transmission electron micrographic observations indicated that wet-strength agent was irregularly shaped; while the dry-strength agent was long-chain molecules. Therefore, the bulking effect of dry-strength agent was inferior to that of wet-strength agent. When the 2 chemicals were premixed, however, wet-strength agent would cover the dry-strength agent, which rendered more effective in both bulking and strength improvements than did the single chemicals.

Keywords: bulk, caliper, dry-strength agent, wet-strength agent, physical properties, electrical charges

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