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Glass Fiber Composites

Chris Ivana*

Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Centre for Management Studies, Spain

Introduction

Because of its superior properties such as high specific strength, low weight, low cost, fairly good mechanical properties, non-abrasive, eco-friendly, and bio-degradable characteristics, natural fibers have piqued the interest of engineers, researchers, professionals, and scientists all over the world as an alternative reinforcement for fiber reinforced polymer composites. Engineers and technologists are combining glass fiber reinforced polymers with natural fibers to expand engineering and technology applications. Glass fibers are small-diameter fibers made from thin strands of silica-based glass. Glass fiber-reinforced composites are made by encasing these fibers in a resin matrix. Glass fiber-reinforced composites are made up of a polymerized monomer matrix packed with tiny thin glass fibers that are chemically linked to it using silane coupling agents. The notion of the fiber fillers' reinforcing action is based on the transmission of stress from the polymer to the fibers, as well as the role of each fiber in crack propagation prevention.

Description

Glass fibers come in a variety of compositions, including A-glass, C-glass, D-glass, AR-glass, S-glass, and E-glass, each with its own set of properties and applications. However, all glass fibers are amorphous, consisting of a three-dimensional network of silica with oxygen and other atoms arranged at random. Glass fibers are used in a variety of industries, including engineering, plastics, electrical boards, radar housing, and dentistry. They're used to make fixed partial dentures, endodontic post systems, and orthodontic fixed retainers, among other dental items. Glass fiber-reinforced composites have a number of advantages over traditional dental materials, including acceptable aesthetics, non-corrosiveness, high toughness, metal-free, non-allergic effect, chair-side handling, biocompatibility, and the ability to be tailored to meet the specific needs of a variety of applications.

Because of its lightweight, high specific strength and stiffness, good chemical and thermal resistance, ease of transportation, installation, and minimal maintenance, Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) composite has been increasingly investigated as an alternative piping material to carbon steel for oil and gas industry applications. The recent demand to transition the offshore oil and gas sector from shallow coast to "deep water" production put the standard steel tether design to the test: larger platforms are required to endure strong axial stress mechanics for works deeper than 1500 meters. As a result, lightweight materials, such as nonmetallic composites, are in high demand for "deep water" and other challenging environmental applications. The flexural and bend loads caused by the curvature and flexibility of these composite pipelines cause composite laminate failure. Nanomaterials have been used to reinforce the matrix and interface of the composites in order to increase their bending capabilities. Since its discovery in 2004, graphene and its derivatives have been intensively explored and frequently used in fiber-reinforced polymer composites due to their superior mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties. Ball-milling, chemical exfoliation, thermal exfoliation, and other processes can be used to mass-produce graphene nanoplatelets (GNPs), which are made up of tens of graphene layers [1-3].

Two basic approaches based on vacuum aided resin infusion have been developed to introduce nanoparticles into composite laminates (VARI). One method is to mix the nanomaterials with epoxy resin first, then VARI; another method is to coat/size the fibers with nanomaterials first, then VARI. GNPs were previously combined with epoxy resin by mechanical stirring, then laid up by hand. Combining sonication, a calendaring technique, and high-speed shear mixing to combine GNPs with epoxy and then using a hand layup technique for composite preparation, the flexural strength of the composites increased initially and then reached a plateau, followed by a reduction as the GNP content increased further. With the addition of GNPs plasma functionalized carbon nanofillers and then mixing them with resin by three roll mill, followed by resin infusion, the flexural strength of the GFRP composites increased at first, then decreased, claiming that it could be used to manufacture hybrid composites. Thermoset and thermoplastic are the two main classifications for polymer-based matrix materials [4,5].

Conclusion

The use of thermoset polymeric resins in fiber-reinforced composites is common. Resin transfer molding or, more recently, vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding processes are used to apply the fibers to these resins. The viscosity of the polymer is low during the interaction of the fiber with the matrix during processing. This results in good wetting qualities between the fiber and the matrix without the use of high temperatures or pressure. The low strain qualities of thermoset resins, on the other hand, lower the composites' impact strength. Epoxy, polyester, phenolic, and vinyl ester are the most often used thermoset resins. Natural fiber-reinforced composites are gaining popularity in the automotive, aerospace, construction, and marine industries due to their advantages of being ecologically friendly and lightweight, cheap cost, and lower energy usage during manufacturing. Natural fibers combined with glass fiber hybrid composites could lead to a variety of engineering and industrial applications.

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***Address for Correspondence:** Ivana Chris, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Centre for Management Studies, Spain; E-mail: IvanaC@im.edu*

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