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Few layered tungsten disulfide/carbon nanotubes polymer based nanocomposites- synthesis and thermal behaviour

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Plastics, despite their many advantages, are well known for their flammability, generation of large amount of toxic gases and hazardous substances. Due to the growing use of these materials in everyday life and increasing environmental requirements, the flammability of these materials is a topic that has recently become more and more popular. The aim is to make the polymers emit less and less heat during combustion while increasing the temperature of their ignition. Tungsten disulfide (WS_2) belongs to the family of transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) whose properties are comparable of those of graphene. WS_2 monolayer exhibit very interesting properties, such as high in-plane carrier mobility and electrostatic modulation of conductance and very good thermal properties. In this work we prove, that few-layer WS_2 improve thermal properties and reduce flammability of polymers. These effects were further enhanced by the growth of carbon nanotubes on exfoliated WS_2 functionalized with nickel and iron oxides. Flame retardant properties were investigated by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA),

microcalorimetry and laser flash analysis. Comparing the obtained values of heat released during combustion, it can be observed that the addition of fillers reduces flammability compared to the neat polymers. It is revealed that these composites can provide a certain physical barrier and inhibit the diffusion of heat and gaseous products during combustion.

Biography

K Maslana is a first-year PhD student. During her Master's thesis she explored thermal behavior of 2D materials in commercial polymers. The results of her Master thesis are published partially in K Wenelska, K Maslana, E Mijowska, Study on the flammability, thermal stability and diffusivity of polyethylene nanocomposites containing few layered tungsten disulfide (WS_2) functionalized with metal oxides, RSC Advances, 2018. She continues her research interest in the field of fire retardant properties of molecular hybrids.

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