

Permeation of PE 100 pipe material

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Summary

Nederlands: Uit deze literatuurstudie volgt dat er slechts zeer beperkt onderzoek naar de permeatie van polyethyleen (PE) 100-pijpleidingen is gedaan. Er zijn geen studies in de literatuur gevonden die specifiek gekeken hebben naar de permeatie van verontreinigingen in waterige oplossingen in PE 100-materiaal. Er zijn een paar studies gevonden over de permeatie van PE-pijpleidingen voor aardgas die specifiek de permeatie van PE 100 tot PE 80 vergeleken. Sommige studies hebben de relatie tussen kristalliniteit en diffusie onderzocht, omdat diffusie optreedt via het amorfe (niet-kristallijne) deel van HDPE-materialen. PE 100 is een meer kristallijn materiaal dan PE80 en als kristalliniteit toeneemt is aangetoond dat diffusie afneemt. De exacte relatie tussen kristalliniteit en diffusie, en de afhankelijkheid van andere parameters zoals tortuosity, is echter complex en er is meer onderzoek nodig.

English: There is limited research into the permeation of polyethylene (PE) 100 pipelines. No studies in the literature were found which specifically looked at the permeation of contaminants in aqueous solutions in PE 100 material. A few studies were found on the permeation of PE pipelines for natural gas which specifically compared the permeation of PE 100 to PE 80. Some studies have researched the relationship between crystallinity and diffusion, as diffusion occurs through the amorphous (non-crystalline) region of HDPE materials. PE 100 is a more crystalline material than PE 80 and as crystallinity increased diffusion has been shown to decrease. However, the relationship between crystallinity and diffusion, and the dependence on other parameters such as tortuosity, is complex and more research is needed.

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1 Background and Literature Search

High density polyethylene (HDPE) is frequently classified by the long-term strength. PE 100 has a minimum required strength of 10 MPa while PE 80 has minimum required strength of 8 MPa (Ref XX). There is increasing interest in using PE 100 for pipelines and the research question was how does the permeation of PE 100 compare to permeation of PE 80. A limited literature review of the Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar databases was performed to find studies related to the permeation of PE 100. The majority of articles related to PE 100 concerned the mechanical and material properties of PE 100 pipelines (e.g. strength, crack resistance, impact resistance etc). There were limited studies which the permeation of PE 80 and PE 100 pipelines for natural gas. However, no studies were found on the aqueous permeation of PE 100 pipe materials. Aqueous permeation studies were primarily on geomembrane, for example for use in landfill liners, and most permeation studies did not give specific material properties of the HDPE tested (e.g. density, strength designation/type, crystallinity etc.). There were a limited number of studies which examined the relationship between crystallinity and permeability, diffusion and partitioning, however no simple and robust empirical relationship yet exists.

2 Permeation and Crystallinity

Islam and Rowe (2009) looked at the relationship between crystallinity, diffusion and partitioning in HDPE aged geomembranes. The authors found that as the HDPE aged, the crystallinity increased. Chemical specific relationships between crystallinity and diffusion, partitioning and permeation were established, see Table 7 in source. Vittoria (1995) studied the relationship between crystallinity, sorption and diffusion in both LDPE and HDPE. When the sorption was normalized to the amorphous area in samples (the non-crystalline portion of the PE) no change in sorption was observed for increasing crystallinity. However, no simple relationship was found between crystallinity and diffusion. Instead a transition zone between 50-60% crystallinity was observed. Rowe et al. (2012) studied the crystallinity in HDPE and fluorinated HDPE (f-HDPE). F-HDPE is more crystalline than HDPE and also showed decreased diffusion as a result. Lützwow et al. (1999) found that diffusion and solubility of contaminants in the polymer decreased while tortuosity increased with increasing crystallinity. A decrease in diffusion and solubility and increase in tortuosity all lead to a decreased mass flux through higher crystalline PE materials. In summary, there is an apparent relationship between increasing crystallinity in HDPE and the permeability. Further research is required to establish an empirical relationship between increased crystallinity in PE 100 compared to PE 80 and the resulting changes in permeability parameters.

3 PE 100 and Permeability of Natural Gas Pipelines

Few studies have compared the permeation of PE 100 pipelines to PE 80 pipelines for natural gas. However, no studies were found for permeation of aqueous contaminants into PE 100. Klopffer et al. (2014) studied natural gas transport in PE 100 pipelines. The authors also looked into the effects of mixtures of gasses (natural gas and hydrogen) and found no mixture effects on permeation. The authors also previously worked on PE 80, however the references are to conference proceedings so there is limited or no reporting of permeability coefficients. See Foulc and Klopffer (2006), Klopffer and Flaconnèche (2008).

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References include both references in the text (bold) and all references consulted.

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