MANUFACTURE OF GENERAL PURPOSE Cv NATURAL RUBBER IN SRI LANKA

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In Sri Lanka a very high percentage of the rubber growing areas have been planted with the clone PB 86, which produces high Mooney viscosity rubber. Hence it has been found that Cv rubber grades with Mooney viscosity 50±5 units cannot be produced in Sri Lanka from small-holders latex, which consist mainly of latex from the clone PB 86. However there is a big consumer demand for Cv rubber grades. Previous workers have employed the chemical RPA 3 to reduce the viscosity to acceptable limits. But RPA 3 is no longer available in the market, and hence an attempt was made in this project to employ two peptising agents tolyl mercaptan and a mixture of tolyl and phenyl mercaptans, which are commonly used in the crepe rubber industry as bleaching agents to achieve the required viscosity, without affecting the oxidisibility (PRI) of rubber.

It has been found that certain concentrations of the above named bleaching agents when used in block rubber, produced Cv rubber of viscosity between 50± Mooney units. Special precautions to be taken in the process to preserve other requirements in the TSR scheme will be discussed.