

E 64 A STUDY OF THE RATE OF DISSOLUTION OF DIFFERENT
GRADES OF LATEX CREPE RUBBER IN PETROLEUM SOLVENTS

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Sri Lanka has the reputation for producing the worlds best latex crepe rubber. Owing to its very high quality, this grade of rubber is known as the "Pride of Sri Lanka" in the world market. There are three kinds of latex crepe rubbers produced to the world market namely (1) Fractioned and bleached rubber, (2) Unfractioned bleached rubber, (3) Yellow fraction rubber.

Latex crepe rubber produced in any of the above methods in this lace form is commonly used for making rubber solutions which are useful in the dipped products industry and in the adhesive industry. An essential requirement of this grade of rubber when used for the above purpose is that it should dissolve in petroleum solvents leaving the minimum amount of residue.

An attempt was made to identify the best of the above grades of crepe rubber for making rubber solutions with the minimal insoluble residue. It was found that when samples of these kinds of rubber of similar dimensions are dipped

in LAWS, the fraction removed bleached rubber dissolves fast leaving the smallest residue on the filter paper while the yellow fraction leaves the biggest amount of residue on the filter paper. But when the filtration was done through a 60 mesh sieve, yellow fraction leaves the smallest residue on the mesh while the rate of dissolution is fastest. This indicates that the yellow fraction rubber forms a gel at a faster rate and hence it loses weight faster while the other two form very little gel; but dissolve faster. Rates of dissolution of each of these grades in LAWS were also determined.