

A Coomarasamy and Pushpa Sirimanne
Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Telewala Road, Ratmalana

Prevulcanized latex is increasingly being used in dipping, coating and carpet backing formulations and in adhesive applications. Its high stability and elimination of compounding and vulcanization steps by the use of this latex, have made this material attractive for small scale manufacturers.

Prevulcanization of natural rubber latex stabilized with ammonia, formaldehyde/NaOH combination and positively charged latex prepared with cetrimide as a stabilizer, has been studied. The extent of prevulcanization was evaluated by chloroform test and by modified solvent swelling test. Mechanical stability of certain types of prevulcanized latices has been determined and found to be quite high at the desired extent of vulcanization. Tensile properties and ageing properties of cast films prepared from selected latices have been found to be satisfactory.

Superior processing rubber samples have been prepared from prevulcanized latices prepared using conventional and heat resistant formulations which have been developed by us. Extrusion and die swell characteristics of extrusion compounds prepared from them have been found to be good.