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# Fracture strength of epoxy binders modified by thermoplastic polysulfone and furfural-acetone resin

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The paper continues researches into modification of bisphenol epoxy resin using heat resistant thermoplastic polymers and reactive diluents, i.e. furfural-acetone resin, in order to improve epoxy resin properties for polymeric composites. It is shown that viscosity of such blend compounds is greatly reduced in comparison with epoxy resin containing only one polysulfone additive at the same glass transition temperature of the cured binder. A combined impact of both polysulfone additives and furfural-acetone resin on mechanical properties of the cured binder, in particular on fracture strength, is studied. Both the fracture strength and material morphology in the fracture zone of the cured binder are analyzed. The modified binder is shown to have higher fracture strength at the current heat resistance. The obtained results will be useful for a wide range of professionals dealing with polymeric composite technology as well as structures based on them.

**Keywords:** polymer compounds, micro-defects, fracture strength, thermoplastics, epoxy resin, polysulfone

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