

Effect of Short Carbon Fibers on Mechanical Properties of AP/HTPB Base Bleed Propellant

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Abstract: To improve the mechanical properties of ammonium perchlorate (AP) / hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) base bleed propellants, the 2 mm short carbon fibers of mass fraction as 0.3% and 0.5% respectively were added in the original AP/HTPB base bleed propellant formulation. The static uniaxial compression and tensile tests for AP/HTPB base bleed propellants containing short carbon fibers were conducted. The microscopic analysis of fracture surface for specimens was performed by SEM. Experimental results show that the tensile strength of AP/HTPB base bleed propellants of adding 2 mm short carbon fibers of mass fraction as 0.3% and 0.5% increases by 11.7% and 33.0% respectively and their compression strength increases by 2.1% and 7.8% respectively. The short carbon fibers are distributed in the HTPB matrix. The bonding property between short carbon fibers and HTPB matrix is good. The damage of new AP/HTPB base bleed propellants containing short carbon fibers is mainly caused by debonding of the AP particles. The short carbon fibers in AP/HTPB base bleed propellants have an inhibitory effect on microcrack development, which demonstrates the short carbon fiber is a good reinforcement material for AP/HTPB base bleed propellants.

Key words: AP/HTPB base bleed propellant; short carbon fibers; mechanical property; SEM analysis; dewetting

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