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A Technique for Efficient Removal and Recovery of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) from Oils

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Polychlorinated Biphenyls(PCBs) in Japan



Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Excellent Insulating Capacity

- Non-flammability
- High Chemical Stability



Transformer

PCBs were widely used as insulating fluids in transformers and capacitors.



Capacitor

High toxicity to the human body and the environment was revealed (Yusho incident in 1968).

Large amounts of PCBs have been stored by the holders for more than 30 years without treatment.

PCB Treatment Law (2001)

Total Abolition of PCBs until 2016

- In 1972 Prohibition of PCB Production and Use by Administrative Direction
- In 1974 Prohibition of PCB Production, Imports, and Use by Law
- In 1998 Permission of Chemical Destruction Methods to Render PCB Harmless by Law

Large amounts of oils contaminated with trace amounts of PCBs (1-100 ppm) are still stored!

Treatment of PCB-contaminated Oils in Japan

Various chemical destruction methods for PCB-contaminated oils have been developed.



Development of a New Technique for Efficient Treatment of Large Amounts of PCB-contaminated Oils (More than 500,000 t)

PCB Waste Treatment Facilities of Japan Environmental Safety Corporation (JESCO)





JESCO's Tokyo Facility for PCB Waste Treatment

Table. Capacity for PCB-Contaminated Oil Treatment in JESCO's Five Facilities

| | Kitakyushu | Osaka | Toyota | Tokyo | Hokkaido |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Capaciy | 1.3 t/day | 2.0 t/day | 1.6 t/day | 2.0 t/day | 1.8 t/day |

Prolonged reaction times will be required for the treatment of more than 500,000 t of PCB-contaminated oils.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals (POPs), including PCBs, that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife.
- Adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004.
- More than 150 countries have agreed to destroy PCBs until 2028.

Efficient and safe treatment of PCB-contaminated Oils is also a crucial problem from a global viewpoint.

Our Strategy for Treatment of PCB-Contaminated Oils



Cyclodextrins (CDs)



• Prepared by transglucosidation of starch using a cyclodextrin glucanotransferase (CGTase).

• Have a hydrophobic cavity into which an organic compound of an appropriate size and shape can be incorporated (inclusion).

Inclusion Complex Formation Using CDs

Inclusion Complex Formation with Guest Compounds in Aqueous Media



CD–Guest Inclusion Complex

- Solubilization of Guest Compounds into Water
- Stabilization of Incorporated Guest compounds
- Selective Separation of a Target Compound
- Controlled Release of Incorporated Guest
 Compounds

Inclusion Complex Formation with Guest Compounds in Oil



Removal of 1,2,4-TrCBz from Oil by Si- β -CD



Inclusion Complex Formation between CD Derivatives and PCBs in Oil



Cyclodextrin Adsorbents Examined





 $Si-\beta-CD$

Channel-type γ-**CD**



Adsorption Experiments



Insulating Oil (300 mg) Including Chlorinated Aromatics (90 or 100 ppm)



Removal of Chlorinated Aromatics from Insulating Oil by Si-β-CD



Initial concentration of chlorinated aromatics: 90 ppm (in 240 mg of insulating oil) Si- β -CD: 20 mg

Removal of Chlorinated Aromatics from Insulating Oil by Channel-type γ-CD



Initial concentration of chlorinated aromatics: 100 ppm (in 300 mg of insulating oil) Channel-type γ -CD: 180 mg

Removal of PCBs from Insulating Oil by CD Polymer



Initial concentration of PCB: 100 ppm (in 400 mg of insulating oil) Amount of CD polymer: 200 mg

Photograph of CD Adsorbent and Column



Quick and Energy-Saving Treatment of PCB-Contaminated Oils



Conclusions

• We developed cyclodextrin adsorbents that were highly useful for the removal and recovery of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from oils.

• By passing PCBs-contaminated oils through a column of the cyclodextrin adsorbent, the efficient and complete removal of PCBs from oils is accomplished.

This technique for PCBs removal and recovery will contribute to the quick and energy-saving treatment of large amounts of PCBs-contaminated oils that are kept in many countries, including Japan.

We are now working toward practical use of this technique with NEOS Company, Ltd. (supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency, JST).

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