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(54) Title: METHOD OF MAKING MECHANICAL PULP (57) Abstract Mechanical pulp intended for coated light weight paper (LWC), magazine paper or the like made as follows. Im- pregnation and preheating of the material, refining in a double-disc refiner, bleaching, refining in a single-disc refiner and screening of the pulp.		

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Method of making mechanical pulp

This invention relates to the making of mechanical pulp from lignocellulose-containing material, intended for coated paper with low grammage, so-called LWC-paper (light weight coated), magazine paper or similar paper qualities.

For this type of paper the properties of the pulp have to meet very high requirements, because the paper must have high density, low roughness, low porosity and high strength. A uniform surface structure of these papers is of special importance.

Paper of this type normally includes both chemical and mechanical pulp. The traditional mechanical pulp component has been groundwood pulp. As an alternative thereto, thermo-mechanical pulp (TMP) has been used in recent years, but with limited success. Several examples have proved that the employment of TMP as mechanical pulp component, even at low freeness values, has resulted in unevennesses in the surface structure of the paper. This in its turn has given rise to poor coating and thereby unacceptable printability. These problems could be avoided only in those cases when the paper manufacturer had taken special steps for modifying or eliminating the negative effects of the long fibre fraction in the thermomechanical pulp. This long fibre fraction, namely, includes some long, rigid and unworked fibres, which have a negative effect on the paper surface structure.

Since recently, chemically modified TMP (CTMP) has constituted an attractive alternative to TMP as mechanical pulp component in LWC-paper and similar qualities. CTMP improves the strength and binding properties and, besides, implies that the problems with long fibre fractions can be reduced. This is due to the fact, that the mild chemical pretreatment substantially improves the defibering capability of the wood material and the swelling tendency of the fibres in the long fibre

fraction of the pulp. These changes bring about a lower shives content and an improved flexibility and ductility of the long fibres in CTMP compared to TMP.

TMP and CTMP for use in LWC-paper and the like usually are manufactured by refining in one or several steps and subsequent screening and bleaching. The energy consumption is relatively high, and a considerable equipment for dewatering and washing is required.

The present invention renders it possible that the equipment can be simplified and the energy consumption be reduced at the same time as the pulp quality is maintained or even improved.

The present invention implies in principle, that the refining is carried out in two steps with intermediate bleaching step. After impregnation and preheating of the raw material in the form of wood chips a refining is carried out in a double-disc refiner, i.e. a refiner with two counter-rotating refining discs. Thereafter a bleaching of the pulp at high concentration is carried out. After the bleaching a second refining at high concentration is carried out in a disc-refiner of single-disc type, i.e. with one stationary and one rotating disc. First thereafter the pulp is subjected to screening. The invention implies that the development of the light-scattering coefficient can be maximized in the first refining step. It is generally known that a double-disc refiner yields a higher light-scattering coefficient than a single-disc refiner. Due to the arrangement of the bleaching step, the pulp is easy-dewatered, so that the high pulp concentration required for the bleaching can be obtained with a simple dewatering equipment. The energy consumption, further, can be reduced in that the refining of the second step is carried out on pulp already bleached. The shives content of the pulp can be minimized by using single-disc refiners for the final refining.

The invention is described in the following with reference to an embodiment thereof.

The raw material in the form of wood chips is pretreated by washing, chemical impregnation and preheating in a conventional manner. As impregnation chemicals preferably Na_2SO_3 or $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3 + \text{NaHSO}_3$ with pH-range 6-12 are used. The temperature of the material is increased by the preheating to 105-145°C.

The material pretreated in this way is subjected to refining under pressure in a double-disc refiner. The refining in this first step yields a pulp with a freeness value according to CSF of 150-300. The pulp, thus, is relatively easy-dewatered. The pulp, therefore, can be pumped to the bleaching step where it is dewatered to desired concentration, 30-45%. The equipment for dewatering thereby can be simple and, thus, imply low investment costs. Thereafter the chemicals required for the bleaching are added. The bleaching preferably is carried out with peroxide or dithionite to an ISO-brightness > 70.

After the bleaching the pulp is washed and thereafter subjected to the second refining, which is carried out at high concentration, 25-45%, and driven to a freeness value according to CSF of 50-150.

Due to the refining being carried out after the bleaching, the energy consumption for the refining is reduced. The bleaching, thus, has rendered the pulp easier to be processed to desired quality. The second refining preferably is carried out at overpressure in a single-disc refiner equipped with a device for accurate gap adjustment and gap control, whereby it is possible to minimize the shives content of the pulp and simultaneously, within certain limits, to control the shortening of the fibre length to the desired mean fibre length of the pulp at desired energy consumption.

After the second refining step, the pulp is screened and cleaned according to conventional methods before the pulp

is ready for its transfer to a paper mill for the making of LWC-paper or similar paper qualities.


The invention, of course, is not restricted to the embodiment described above, but can be varied within the scope of the invention idea.

Claims

1. A method of making mechanical pulp from lignocellulose-containing material, intended for coated light weight paper (LWC), magazine paper or the like, characterized by a combination of the steps
 - a) impregnation and preheating of the material,
 - b) a first refining under pressure in a disc-refiner with two counter-rotating beating discs (double-disc refiner),
 - c) admixture of bleaching chemicals and bleaching at high concentration,
 - d) a second refining under pressure in a disc-refiner with one stationary and one rotating disc (single-disc refiner),
 - e) screening of the pulp.
2. A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the first refining is carried out to a freeness value according to CSF of 150-300, and the second refining to 50-150.
3. A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the bleaching is carried out with peroxide or dithionite to an ISO-brightness above 70.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/SE86/00454

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC ⁴		
D 21 B 1/16, D 21 C 3/26		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC 4 US C1	D 21 B 1/02, /12, /14, /16, /30; D 21 C 3/00, /26 162:19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 71, 78	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
SE, NO, DK, FI classes as above		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	US, A, 4 294 653 (J.A. I. LINDAHL, L.G RUDSTRÖM) 13 October 1981 & SE, 413684 FR, 2285489 DE, 2540919 AU, 84629/75 GB, 1519848 JP; 51060702 CA, 1070907 SE, 7411949	1
X	EP, A1, 30 778 (THE ONTARIO PAPER COMP LIM) 24 June 1981 & JP, 56091093 AU, 60460/80 CA, 1145107 AU, 531907	1, 2
A	US, A, 3 467 574 (W.B. WEST) 16 September 1969 & SE, 344774 .../...	
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IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
1986-12-19	1987-01-08	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
Swedish Patent Office	 Marianne Bratsberg	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
A	US, A, 3 016 324 (C.K. TEXTOR) 9 January 1962 See spec. column 2, lines 29-48.	
A	US, A, 3 388 037 (A.J.A. ASPLUND ET AL) 11 June 1968 & SE, 303088	