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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR DEINKING WASTE PAPER

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a process for deinking waste paper comprising treating the waste paper with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of a first polymer (A) comprising a Ca-binding polymer in the form of a polycarboxylate polymer and a second polymer (B) comprising a poly-alfa-hydroxyacrylic acid or a salt thereof or the corresponding polylactone, said process additionally comprising treating the waste paper with at least one non-ionic surfactant or with at least one combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof to promote ink detachment and/or ink removal.

Process for deinking waste paper

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to a chemical deinking process comprising a special 5 peroxide stabilizer comprising a calcium binding polymer and a polymer comprising an alkali salt of poly (α -hydroxyacrylic acid) or the corresponding polylactone, and additionally a non-ionic surfactant instead of sodium silicate (water glass) and a fatty acid surfactant. The process produces a low ash containing deinked pulp which can be used for producing high grade tissue and 10 fine paper.

Background of the invention

In the past deinking of waste paper was mainly practiced to obtain cheap raw material for newsprint production. In North America, washing system was practiced. In Europe, flotation system, which used alkali, sodium silicate and 15 hydrogen peroxide in repulping of waste paper, was used. This kind of deinking did not normally comprise any bleaching stage within the main deinking system, but possibly a post-bleaching with sodium dithionite. During the past decade deinked pulp (DIP) has found increasingly place as a raw material for higher grade papers such as supercalandered (SC) and light weight coated (LWC) papers, 20 which are used in magazines, catalogues etc., and in the production of fine papers, which are essentially woodfree and in tissue production. This has meant higher brightness target with high cleanliness requirements. Flotation deinking and flotation deinking with two flotation stages comprising also an alkaline hydrogen peroxide bleaching stage has become more and more popular.

25 In order to detach the ink from the repulped waste paper alkali is added to swell the fibers and hydrogen peroxide is added for preventing alkali darkening. Sodium silicate (water glass) is added to buffer the system, to stabilize peroxide, to collect the ink and to prevent the redeposition of ink particles on fibers. In the deinking of woodfree (WF) papers, such as office papers, hydrogen peroxide and sodium 30 silicate (water glass) is seldom used. In order to collect the disintegrated ink from the repulped waste paper, fatty acids as their calcium soaps were used as ink collectors. The calcium was separately added in the past, but since the current waste papers contain a lot of calcium containing pigments and fillers, a separate

addition of calcium salts are seldom any more needed. In addition hard water and the closure of water circulations have contributed to the content of calcium.

At the moment the most used method for deinking waste paper is the flotation deinking. The configuration of the system depends much on the raw material and 5 on the end use of the deinked pulp.

The most used system covers the following units. An alkaline repulping of waste paper in the presence of alkali and silicate for buffering and ink dispersion and in the presence of hydrogen peroxide for reducing alkali darkening of pulp. A surface active agent is also in general added into the pulping equipment. This is still quite 10 often a fatty acid, which needs to be in form of a calcium salt in order to collect the disintegrated ink particles, though non-ionic synthetic surfactants are also used. After the repulping, the cleaning and screening section are following. There is, after this unit, the first flotation unit, flotation I, where the surfactant can also be added. After cleaning and screening a kneader or disperger is used to detach 15 more residual ink. If higher brightness is needed for the deinked pulp, e.g. if the deinked pulp is not used for newsprint, but e.g. as raw material for SC or LWC paper or if mixed office paper is used as raw material, an alkaline hydrogen peroxide bleaching stage is followed, which is followed by the flotation II. This can then be followed by a reductive sodium dithionite bleaching stage, which is often 20 practiced when deinked pulp is targeted for newsprint production and the process does not include the peroxide bleaching stage. The deinking can also be carried out at only one flotation stage and the process can also include washing stages, which are very common when deinked pulp is used for tissue production, when the low ash content in the tissue paper is important to the tissue properties. When 25 colored papers are deinked the last bleaching stage can also be carried out by a reductive sodium formamidine sulfonic acid (FAS) for effective color reduction. If the production of DIP is connected to a paper mill the water introduced to the DIP process comes as so called white water from the paper mill. The DIP mills having two flotation units comprise normally two recycling water loops, which nowadays 30 most often also comprise a microflotation unit for cleaning the waters to be recycled.

The conventional deinking process can also be such one that the repulping is carried out without hydrogen peroxide, but after the repulping of the wastepaper and the cleaning and screening section there is a disperger/kneader or soaking 35 tower. The bleaching of the pulp is either carried out in the disperger or in the soaking tower, which is followed by only one flotation unit. This system is very

much practiced when old newsprints or when old newsprint and magazines are deinked in order to produce pulp for newsprint production.

For every special application the DIP has a certain brightness target, but important parameters in the deinking is the residual ink content, speck count or area and yield. For the production efficiency as high yields as possible with target pulp properties is the goal in order to obtain good profitability. This means that as little as possible loss of fines and pigments and fillers present in the raw material waste paper, should occur. This is not always the case, when tissue is made, since the different tissues have specific low ash requirements. A part of this is achieved by 10 selecting low ash containing waste papers such as low ash containing office paper as the raw material. Since the papers varies, the DIP process for tissue production, always comprise one or more washing stages, which will decrease the yield by removing fillers and pigments.

Also in deinking office papers, normally the so-called mixed office waste (MOW), 15 which can contain at maximum 10-15% wood containing grades and other fiber materials such as different board materials, the low ash content is also an aim, since the mineral fillers and pigments can adversely affect the high brightness requirements and other pulp properties. Also, in deinking old news paper (ONP) and old magazine paper (OMP) raw materials for production of deinked pulp for 20 production of SC and LWC paper, low ash content can also be the aim, since the ash can adversely affect strength properties.

A lot of different equipment, which have not been mentioned above can be used in the deinking processes.

Generally following chemicals are used in deinking:

25 Alkali is used in repulping in order to swell the fibers and thus to alleviate the detachment of ink from the fibers.

Sodium silicate (water glass) is used for buffering the system, for ink dispersion from the fibers, ink agglomeration, preventing ink redeposition and preventing decomposition of the used peroxide.

30 Hydrogen peroxide to counteract the darkening caused by alkali. Hydrogen peroxide is used also in a separate bleaching stage.

A flotation agent, i.e. a surfactant to collect the ink.

A foaming agent, if needed, to improve the function of the ink collector in the separation of foam.

Calcium ions to obtain collector properties, when fatty acids are used as ink collectors.

5 A chelating agent to prevent the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide by transition metal ions.

A biocide or an anticalazalase agent to inhibit the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide by catalazalase enzyme.

The normal terms used, when making deinking performance studies are:

10 ERIC (Effective Residual Ink Concentration) in ppm.

Hyperwash, a special efficient washing, in which the loosely bound ink can be eliminated and the measurements done for the pulp describes the pure deinked pulp.

15 Dirt or speck count and area or image analysis depicting the contamination by residual ink etc.

Brightness or R 457 value.

Yield of the pulp based on the used amount of waste paper.

Problems associated with the use of sodium silicate and the current status of the technology.

20 As described earlier water glass is abundantly used in deinking of waste papers due to the many beneficial properties. Water glass causes also many problems, since it gives very easily deposits, especially in the presence of calcium in the fiber line and the carry-over of silicate with the water-containing pulp from the fiber line can cause runnability problems in the paper machine. Therefore it would be 25 advantageous to replace the silicate, but this has not yet succeeded.

The surfactants used as ink collectors can be divided into the following classes:

Anionic surfactants including soaps, linear alkylbenzene sulphonates (LAS), fatty alcohol sulphates (FAS) and fatty alcohol ether sulphates (FEAS).

Cationic surfactants including quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC).

Ampholytic surfactants including ampholytic surfactants (AMPH).

Non-ionic surfactants including fatty alcohol ethoxylates (FAEO) and propoxylates

(FAPO) and combinations thereof (FAEPO), nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEO), and

5 other surfactants, such as alkoxylated polyesters, fatty acid ethoxylates and propoxylates, ethoxylated vegetable oils etc.

Soap is still the dominant surfactant at least when old newsprint (ONP) and old magazines (OMG) are deinked, but it requires calcium ions in order to function as ink collector, but the calcium soap has among other things the drawback of

10 causing deposit problems and negatively affecting the sheet properties, when deinked pulp is used in paper making. All the other surfactants have also some drawbacks, but they are used in special applications, e.g. in deinking of mixed office waste (MOW), in tissue production etc and in some countries and combined with certain kind of equipment when the certain benefits can be obtained and the 15 normal drawbacks, such as the reduced yield of fillers is not of importance.

The use of sodium salt poly-(α -hydroxyacrylic acid) (PHAS) and the corresponding polylactone in deinking of ONP and OMG mixture is disclosed in US Patent 4,347,099 (Solvay, 1976). The deinking has been carried out in the presence of a fatty acid at specific hardness and also in the presence of a foaming agent.

20 It is also set forth in US 4,347,099 that the PHAS and the ink collector can totally be omitted and a polyacrylic acid can be used instead of PHAS. The only properties, which have been measured, are brightness and hydrogen peroxide consumption, in addition to the pH. The deinking is a complex process and also other parameters such as the yield, the amount of residual ink and speck area 25 should be measured in order to assess the performance of the deinking process. It can also be noticed that different deinking systems are specific for the used waste papers and sometimes also for inks used in printing the paper. In addition to the required pulp properties, the yield in a deinking process is a very important factor, since the yield will define a part of the cost efficiency of the process. When ONP 30 based only on old newsprints is deinked, a yield of 90-95% can be obtained. When waste papers containing fillers and mineral pigments, i.e. OMG, are used together with ONP, an average yield of 85% is obtained, while making deinked pulp for tissue production from this kind of raw materials the yield can be as low as 50%. In deinking of wood free grades, the yield is not always very important, e.g. when the

deinked pulp is used for making uncoated fine paper. One tries to guarantee good properties of the end product paper and therefore the filler and pigments content, measured as ash content should be relatively low. This means that the yield can be below 80%, depending on the original filler and pigment content of the used raw material waste paper.

5 **Summary of the invention**

Now it has been surprisingly found that a combination of PHAS plus a calcium binding polymer as a peroxide stabilizer and a special surfactant can efficiently be used in the deinking of office waste paper and in the bleaching of deinked pulp 10 without sodium silicate and in deinking of waste paper containing mechanical pulps for tissue production. The use of PHAS and a calcium binding polymer has been described in applicants international patent applications PCT/FI2004/000009 and PCT/FI2004/000010.

If a fatty acid based surfactant is used in the deinking, it needs to be as calcium 15 salt in order to be an efficient ink collector. PHAS will bind calcium and will at the same time become more inefficient stabilizer for hydrogen peroxide. This function can be improved by introducing a polymer which will bind more effectively calcium than PHAS. The reason for this is unknown, since though a polymer with higher calcium binding ability would be added, the amount of this is not enough to bind all 20 the calcium and therefore there would be enough calcium to be bound by PHAS and render it inefficient. It has, however, been found that in the presence of fatty acids, PHAS and PHAS containing polymer compositions will not give such milky product as water glass, but a system also containing precipitates.

If a fatty acid based collector would be used in the deinking process, somehow 25 PHAS or a combination of PHAS and a calcium binding polymer would render the fatty acid surfactant to a less efficient ink collector and to a less efficient flotation agent when sodium silicate is not used. The reason for this is not known, since at least in the deinking of OMG there is abundantly calcium available for generating fatty acid calcium soap. It has been found that in alkaline milieu PHAS and the 30 combination of PHAS and a polycarboxylate polymer starts at least partly precipitate in the presence of fatty acid. This can be the reason for the inefficiency of PHAS and the polymer combination in a system with high calcium content, which is prevailing in the first flotation stage in deinking a mixture of ONP and OMG and in deinking woodfree waste papers containing fillers.

By using a more neutral ink collector flotation agent, the invented system can result in good deinked pulp regarding the pulp properties with targeted yield and avoiding the drawbacks of sodium silicate.

The surfactants to be used as ink collector according to the present invention are 5 non-ionic surfactants, preferably fatty alcohol ethoxylates and propoxylates and fatty acid ethoxylates and propoxylates which have been obtained by reacting the substrates with either ethylene oxide or propylene oxide or with both ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, but also mixtures of the above mentioned substances with fatty acids in certain ratio can be used, especially when the calcium content in 10 the system is not very high, e.g. not above 1000 ppm.

The system can also advantageously be used for deinking of waste office papers, which do not contain much mechanical papers, when low ash content is required. The invention can also advantageously be used in deinking of waste papers containing mechanical fibers with high filler and pigments contents, such as 15 newsprint, magazine papers and the mixtures of these for making raw material pulp for tissue paper, since the invented system has the property to flotate well fillers and mineral pigments when waste papers containing mechanical fibers are used. Therefore the deinked pulp will have a low ash content, which is needed for softness in the tissue paper production.

20 **Brief description of the drawings**

Fig. 1a depicts a deinking system for mixed office waste paper including two washing and two flotation stages, which system can be used for carrying out the process of the present invention,

Fig. 1b depicts a deinking system for mixed office waste paper including two 25 washing stages and one flotation stage, which system can be used for carrying out the process of the present invention,

Fig. 2 depicts a deinking system for mixed office waste paper used in the experiments in Example 4, and

Fig. 3 depicts a deinking system for mixed office waste paper used in the 30 experiments in Example 5.

Detailed description of the invention

According to the present invention there is provided a process for deinking waste paper comprising treating the waste paper with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of a first polymer (A) comprising a Ca-binding polymer in the form of a polycarboxylate polymer and a second polymer (B) comprising a poly-alfa-hydroxyacrylic acid or a salt thereof or the corresponding polylactone, said process additionally comprising treating the waste paper with at least one non-ionic surfactant or with at least one combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof to promote ink detachment and/or ink removal.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention a combination of PHAS and a raw polycarboxylate polymer or a polymer composition made from the polylactone corresponding PHAS and a raw polycarboxylate polymer made according to applicants patent applications PCT/FI2004/000009 and PCT/FI2004/000010 is used in the deinking process. It was found that as good performance as with only PHAS can be obtained with the combination of PHAS and a raw polycarboxylate polymer and a polymer composition made from the polylactone corresponding PHAS and a raw polycarboxylate polymer. This is advantageous, since PHAS or the corresponding polylactone is much more expensive than the raw polycarboxylate polymers used in the invented systems. The polymer system is described more in detail in the following.

The Ca-binding polymer is preferably in the form of a raw polycarboxylate polymer (A). The conventional polycarboxylic acid polymers (polymer A) can be made by conventional radical polymerization of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid or by co-polymerization of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid with an olefinic dicarboxylic acid such as e.g. maleic acid or itaconic acid. The obtained raw polymer preferably has a pH of below 7, more preferably below 6, and most preferably below 5.

Polymers (A) and (B) can be introduced in the form of a solution containing both polymers. The polymer solution preferably has a pH of at most 7, more preferably at most 6, and most preferably at most 5.

The ratio of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid to the olefinic dicarboxylic acid is 100:0 to 0:100 mol-%, preferably 80:20 to 20:80, and most preferably 70:30 to 50:50 mol-%. Also higher contents of the olefinic dicarboxylic acid compounds can be

used, but the polymerization will become more and more difficult when the share of the olefinic dicarboxylic acid is increased.

The molecular weights of the first polymer (A) can vary in big ranges, but should be at least 3000 g/mol, preferably at least 4000 g/mol, more preferably at least 5 10000 g/mol and most preferably at least 30000 g/mol. The second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of preferably at least 5000 g/mol, more preferably at least 10000 g/mol, and most preferably at least 15000 g/mol. Molecular weight can be even higher, although with very high molecular weights the viscosity of the product will increase considerably at high concentrations. The salt of the second polymer 10 (B) is preferably an alkali metal salt, especially a sodium salt.

The ratio between polymer (A) and (B) can be varied to a large extent, but the share of the second polymer (B) should be from 1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 5 15 5 to 50% by weight, more preferably from 10 to 40% by weight, and most preferably from 10 to 30% by weight of the total amount of the polymers in the mixture.

The amount of the polymers (A) and (B) calculated as product according to the invention, which shall be added as a stabilizer instead of silicate, is preferably from 0.01 to 0.5% by weight (0.1 - 5 kg/ton pulp,) more preferably from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight (0.1 – 2 kg/tp), and most preferably from 0.02 to 0.1% by weight (0.2 – 20 1 kg/tp) of dry weight of waste paper pulp. The polymers can be added in all the places, where silicate has been used.

The addition points of the polymers (A) and (B) are preferably close to the addition points of the peroxide compound and the alkaline compound.

According to the invention the treatment with the peroxide compound in an aqueous medium in the presence of the polymers (A) and (B) can be carried out in a pulper and/or in a bleaching step.

According to the invention the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof can be carried out in a pulper followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps.

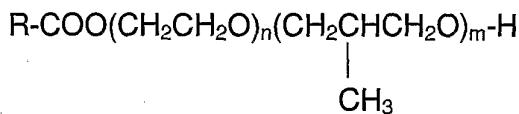
30 According to the invention the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof can be carried out in one or more flotation and/or washing steps.

According to the invention the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof can carried out both in a pulper and in one or more flotation and/or washing steps, wherein the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof used in the pulper and in the flotation and/or washing step(s) can be the same or different.

The combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof preferably comprises at most 50% by weight of the fatty acid or a salt thereof.

One embodiment of the process of the invention comprises at least one peroxide bleaching step followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps carried out in the presence of a fatty acid or a salt thereof or the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof. Preferably such flotation and/or washing step(s) are carried out in the presence of a fatty acid or a salt thereof in an amount not exceeding about 90% by weight of the total amount of surfactants used in the deinking process.

The non-ionic surfactant used in combination with the above mentioned polymer system can be a fatty acid derivative of the general formula



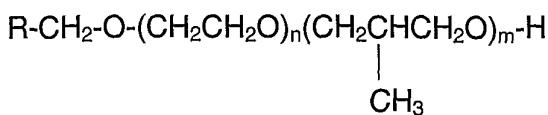
20

wherein R is a fatty acid alkyl group with C5 - C21 carbon atoms, preferably C13-C19 carbon atoms and more preferably C15-C18 carbon atoms,

n is the average number of ethylene oxide units and is from about 5 to 100, preferably from about 7 to 75, and more preferably from about 10 to 30, and

25 m is the average number of propylene oxide units and is from about 0 to 30, preferably from about 3 to 25, and more preferably from about 4 to 20.

Also other kinds of non-ionic surfactants can be used, for example ethoxylated or both ethoxylated and propoxylated fatty alcohol derivatives of the general formula



30

wherein R is a fatty alcohol alkyl group with C5 - C21 carbon atoms, preferably C13-C19 carbon atoms and more preferably C15-C18 carbon atoms,

n is the average number of ethylene oxide units and is from about 5 to 100, preferably from about 7 to 75, and more preferably from about 10 to 30, and

5 m is the average number of propylene oxide units and is from about 0 to 30, preferably from about 3 to 25, and more preferably from about 4 to 20.

According to the invention a combination of the non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof can be used. The fatty acid has the following general formula



10 wherein R is a fatty acid alkyl group with C5 - C21 carbon atoms, preferably C13-C19 carbon atoms and more preferably C15-C18 carbon atoms. The salt of the fatty acid can be an alkali metal salt, such as sodium or potassium, or an alkaline earth metal salt, such as calcium or magnesium.

15 The weight ratio of the non-ionic surfactant to the fatty acid or a salt thereof is preferably from 1:20 to 20:1, more preferably from 1:10 to 10:1 and most preferably from 1:3 to 3:1.

The non-ionic surfactant can be mixed with the fatty acid or a salt thereof either before addition to a processing unit of recovered paper or in conjunction to addition to a processing unit of recovered paper.

20 The total amount of the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of the non-ionic surfactant and the fatty acid or a salt thereof is preferably from 0.001 to 1.5% by weight, more preferably from 0.01 to 0.75% by weight, and most preferably from 0.15 to 0.5% by weight of dry waste paper.

25 The non-ionic surfactant or said combination can be used, not only in the repulping of waste paper, but can also be used in several places in the deinking line in order to obtain an optimized result. E.g. a part of the non-ionic surfactant or said combination can be added into the repulping of waste paper and a part into the first flotation stage and/or into the possible following flotation stages.

30 The waste paper to be deinked by the process of the invention can be recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW) and/or wood-containing old newsprint (ONP) and/or old magazine (OMG).

When the waste paper is recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW), the process preferably comprises treating the MOW in a pulper in the presence of the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof, followed by flotation and/or washing for 5 ink removal, and thereafter bleaching with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of the first polymer (A) and the second polymer (B).

When the waste paper is recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW), the process can produce a deinked pulp having a low ash 10 content, preferably less than 10% by weight, more preferably less than 5% by weight, and most preferably less than 3% by weight of dry pulp.

When the waste paper is recycled paper comprising wood-containing old newsprint (ONP) and/or old magazine (OMG), the process preferably comprises treating the ONP and/or OMG in a pulper with a peroxide compound in an 15 aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of the first polymer (A), the second polymer (B), and the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof, followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps for ink removal, and optionally bleaching with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium optionally in the presence of the first 20 polymer (A) and the second polymer (B) and/or with dithionite.

The process of the invention can comprise a first peroxide bleaching step followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps and a second bleaching step, preferably comprising a reductive bleaching step, such as a sodium dithionite bleaching step or a sodium formamidine sulfonic acid step.

25 In the deinking of mixed office waste, where silicate is used only in the bleaching of the raw deinked pulp, the polymer system can be used instead of silicate. The same surfactant can be used in the repulping of waste paper as in the flotation stage(s). Depending of the raw materials and the inks, a non-ionic surfactant can be used in repulping and another one in the flotation after the hydrogen peroxide 30 bleaching stage in order to achieve an optimal performance, i.e. the final pulp properties and yield. Also soap can be used as surfactant in the flotation stages after the peroxide stage, when the calcium content is low enough, lower than 1000 mg Ca²⁺/l, preferably lower than 500 mg Ca²⁺/l, most preferably less than 300 Ca²⁺/l.

The optimal pH range in the bleaching in the presence the polymer system is from 7 to 13, preferably from 7 to 12 and most preferably from 7 to 11. Sodium carbonate can be added to the system in order to achieve a buffer action as with sodium silicate. The amount of the sodium carbonate addition as product is less than 50%, preferably less than 30 and most preferably less than 20% of the alkaline product addition. The amount should preferably be as big as in the sodium silicate system to obtain the same alkalinity. The alkali charge should be lower than normally in order to ensure that the pH do not rise too high and cause a decomposition of peroxide. In a silicate system the danger is much smaller since silicate can buffer the system.

The temperature in the bleaching can be from 30 to 90°C, preferably from 50 to 90°C, and most preferably from 60 to 90°C. The residence time in the bleaching can vary within a wide range, from 30 to 240 minutes, preferably from 45 to 180 minutes and most preferably from 60 to 120 minutes. The residence time will also depend on the temperature used in the bleaching.

Any consistency can be used in the bleaching stage but it is most preferably to use high consistency, but medium consistency can also be used.

In the deinking of waste papers containing mechanical fiber, such as ONP (old newsprint) and OMG (old magazines), the most preferable system comprises at least following steps: repulping, ink removal by flotation and/or washing, peroxide bleaching and ink removal by flotation and/or washing.

The systems according to the invention give pulp with a much lower mineral content, measured as ash content. Therefore the pulp is suitable as raw material for further processing in a complete deinking line to make pulp for tissue production, where a low ash content is needed. In summary this observed attribute is a preferential decrease in ash removal relative to other furnish solids such as fibers and fiber fines in the deinking process.

Thus, the process of the invention is especially advantageous to make deinked pulp for tissue production with low ash content. The ash content is preferably less than 10% by weight, more preferably less than 5% by weight, and most preferably less than 3% by weight.

The process of the invention can be a low yield process. For woodfree qualities the yield is typically less than 85% by weight, preferably less than 80% by weight, and more preferably less than 75% by weight. In respect of wood-containing

qualities especially for tissue production the yields can be much lower than 75% by weight.

The deinking process of the present invention can have several loops. Such systems for mixed office waste (Donald Dick, Sequence of unit operations in 5 deinking plant design, TAPPI Pulping Conference 1992, p. 775, figures 9 and 10) in principle are depicted in Fig. 1a and 1b. The systems comprise typically three, two or one flotation stage and two washing stages.

10 The system of Fig. 1a comprises two flotation stages and two washing stages in order to reduce the amounts of fillers and pigments. Oxidative bleaching with peroxide is carried out in a kneader or disperger after washing and before the first flotation I. The first flotation is followed by further cleaning and washing. Thereafter a reductive bleaching with FAS (sodium formamidine sulfinic acid) is carried out followed by the second flotation II.

15 The system of Fig. 1b comprises one flotation stages and two washing stages in order to reduce the amounts of fillers and pigments. Oxidative bleaching with peroxide is carried out in a kneader or disperger after washing and before the flotation I. The flotation is followed by further cleaning and washing. Thereafter a reductive bleaching with dithionite or FAS (sodium formamidine sulfinic acid) is carried out.

20 Also the water circulations are shown in Fig. 1a and 1b. Nowadays it is also common to use high consistency peroxide bleaching. Since the bleaching liquor will always carry substantial amounts of peroxide, the liquor is recycled, normally to pulping in order to utilize the residual peroxide. Since the peroxide bleaching according to the prior art is carried out in the presence of water glass, silicate will 25 be introduced also into the pulping. This system is much used when waste paper containing mechanical fibers is used for making higher grades of deinked pulp for magazine papers, such as e.g. LWC. The raw material waste paper can then also contain mixed office waste, when high brightness is the target.

30 Fig 1a and 1b are only examples of deinking systems/processes, where different additional pieces of equipment can be used and where the order of the different unit operations can be changed.

The water circulation is normally arranged counter-currently towards dirtier in the early stages of the process. E.g. water from the thickening after the 2nd flotation after purification, normally by microflootation is returned from the end of the

thickening stage to front of the second flotation and the filtrate from the peroxide bleaching stage is transferred to post-flotation and/or backward (in the process chain) to flotation or pulping stages before peroxide bleaching stage. The repulping and first flotation stages also comprise a separate water purification 5 stage, normally by microflotation to the repulping. Of course the commercial systems are more complicated including more recycling loops, fresh water feeding and purge of some parts of the waters to the effluent water system. If the deinking plant is connected to paper mill, the feed water to carry pulp from the storage chest is normally purified water, so-called white water from the paper mill. A part of 10 this is also fed into the water coming from the thickening operation and which after it is recycled in front of the second flotation.

In deinking of office waste paper it is quite normal that water glass and peroxide are not introduced into the pulping, but since the wash liquor after the peroxide bleaching carried out conventionally in the presence of water glass, is recycled to 15 the repulping of waste paper or to flotation stages, both peroxide as residual peroxide in the returned washing liquor and silicate will be present in the deinking operation.

Fig. 1a and 1b depict also quite well the deinking system of waste papers containing mechanical fibers, such papers as newsprint, magazine papers etc, 20 where the invented system can be used. Normally the repulping is carried out in the presence of hydrogen peroxide and sodium silicate, but this does not necessarily need to be the case, since deinking can be carried out without hydrogen peroxide, but the peroxide is used in a disperger/kneader or in a soaking tower before the first and often the only flotation stage. The special washing 25 stages, which are intended for the removal of pigments and fillers in the original waste paper, are not, however, normally used, but can be used in production of tissue, fine paper and LWC paper, since high yield is wanted.

The invented system is also especially advantageous to make deinked pulp for tissue production with low ash content.

30 In tissue production the deinking can also comprise only one flotation loop, which loop can be followed by one or more washing loops in order to achieve the required low ash content.

In this specification the percentages are % by weight unless otherwise specified.

Example 1

This example describes the preparation of a stabilizer according to the invention from PHAS and from polymer A.

An acrylic acid copolymer (copolymer A) was made using conventional radical 5 copolymerization technique from acrylic acid and maleic acid in molar ratio 60:40. The weight average molecular weight of the copolymer was about 44000 g/mol. The copolymer solution was diluted to active content 24% by weight. The pH of the solution was about 4.

10 The copolymer solution was mixed with a PHAA polymer (as an alkaline sodium salt=PHAS) having a weight average molecular weight of about 30000 and an active content of 30% by weight. The active content ratio PHAS:copolymer A was 1:4. The mixture was a clear product having pH 4.8, dry content 24% by weight and viscosity about 50 mPas at 25°C. The solution remained clear for several days.

15 By increasing or decreasing the amount of PHAS, different polymer compositions can be made.

Different kinds of copolymers A with different ratios between acrylic or methacrylic acid and maleic acid or itaconic acid can be made in the similar way as described above, which allows to make different copolymer A - PHAS combinations.

20 Example 2

This example describes the preparation of a stabilizer according to the invention from the polylactone and polymer A.

A polyacrylate copolymer (copolymer A) was made using conventional radical copolymerization technique from acrylic acid and maleic acid in molar ratio 60:40. 25 The weight average molecular weight of the copolymer was about 44000 g/mol. The copolymer solution was diluted to the active contents given in table 1, and the pH thereof was about 4. A moist polylactone powder, having a molecular weight of about 30000 g/mol and an active content of 67.6% by weight, was added to the copolymer A solutions listed in table 1 under vigorous stirring at room temperature. 30 The active content ratio polylactone:copolymer A was 1:4. After addition of all polylactone mixing was continued under gentle stirring 1.5 h, during which all insoluble solids remained after vigorous stirring stage were dissolved. The final

product mixtures had clear appearance, pH 3.9 and other properties listed in Table 1. Samples were stored at room temperature.

Table 1

Exp. No.	Active content of copolymer A solution, %	Copolymer A solution in mixture, g	Moist polylactone in mixture, g	Active content of the final mixture, %	viscosity at 25 °C at once, mPas	viscosity at 25 °C after 1 week, mPas
786 A1	30	200	22.2	35	> 5000	4020
786 A2	25	200	18.5	30	> 5000	1080
786 A3	22	200	16.3	26	1550	360
786 A4	20	200	14.8	24	1410	306
786 A5	17	200	12.6	21	279	83

5 As it can be seen the products below 30% solids content show low viscosities enough in order to be fed easily with normal pumping equipment. By increasing or decreasing the amount of the polylactone, different polymer compositions can be made.

Example 3

10 Tests of PHAS in the presence of fatty acid and alkali.

The different combinations of caustic soda plus PHAS and soap were compared with the standard soda plus silicate plus soap system in deionised water containing 500 mg Ca²⁺/l. The chemicals were added in the same amounts as when the trials were carried out at a 16% consistency in the pulper, i.e. caustic soda 0.7%, sodium silicate 2.0%, soap 0.7% and the sodium salt of poly (α-hydroxyacrylic acid) = PHAS 0.25%.

The visual inspection gave the following end results

Table 2

System	Visual result
soda	Transparent
PHAS	transparent
Caustic soda plus PHAS	Opaque
Caustic soda plus soap	Milky
PHAS plus caustic soda	Opaque
Caustic soda plus silicate	Transparent
Caustic soda, PHAS and soap	Milky with a precipitate
Caustic soda, soap and PHAS	Milky with a precipitate
PHAS, caustic soda and soap	Milky with a precipitate
Caustic soda, silicate and soap	Milky

It can be seen that in hard water, i.e. at relatively high calcium concentration, PHAS system will get a precipitation independent of the order of addition, while a silicate system gives a milky system. This will give an indication that PHAS will not be compatible with an alkaline soap system at high calcium concentration, which prevails at the pulping and flotation stage, when magazine papers with high calcium content, or wood free papers with high filler content or when the recycled or used fresh water contains a high calcium content.

10 Mixing non-ionic surfactant with alkaline soap solution together with PHAS did not cause any precipitation.

Example 4

DEINKING OF OFFICE PAPER IN PILOT/LABORATORY PLANT

15 General features for pilot/laboratory plant deinking.

About 30 kg of mixture of 70% of coated wood free (WF) (European standard grade 2.08 waste paper, without possible heavily printed circulars) and 30% WF paper printed with toner were used in the experiments.

20 The raw material mixture was pulped without alkali addition with two kinds of non-ionic surfactant in a Helico batch pulper at 16-17% consistency (Cs) at 45°C for 15 minutes. 0.1% of Rhoditec 1000 (Rhodia S.A, France), an alkoxylated fatty alcohol was added into the pulping. The other one was a fatty acid alkoxylate based surfactant, Lionsurf 737 (Kemira Chemicals Inc., USA). The dosage was 0.075% as commercial product. The pulp was washed in a classifier at an about 1% inlet 25 Cs and 6% outlet Cs. The pulp was then thickened in a screw press to about 36-

40% Cs. The pulp was heated to 70°C and the bleaching chemicals were added. Due to this dilution the consistency dropped to about 30%. The bleaching was carried out in an insulated retention screw, which had a 20 minutes retention time either after a low-speed kneading or before a high-speed disperger. In the case of 5 the kneader, the bleaching chemicals were added into the kneader. The dosage of hydrogen peroxide was 1% of the pulp.

This system simulated the first deinking loop (Fig. 2)

The bleaching was carried out with three different systems:

- silicate bleaching: 2.5% of commercial sodium silicate solution (concentration 10 36.5% and Na₂O/SiO₂ ratio 1:3.4), 1% of NaOH and 0.15% of a commercial 40% sodium salt solution of DTPA
- 0.25% of 30 % of PHAS commercial PHAS solution, MW about 30000, 1% of NaOH and 0.15% of DTPA
- 0.5% of 25% solution of a 1:4 mixture of PHAS and a maleic acid -acrylic 15 copolymer made according to example 1, 1% of NaOH and 0.15% of DTPA.

All the percentages are calculated based on the weight of oven dried (od) pulp.

The second deinking loop was simulated in the laboratory scale using a 25 liters Voith flotation cell at a consistency of 10 g/l and a residence time of 7 minutes. The air ratio was 170%. 0.7% of soap, or 0.1% Rhoditec 1000 or 0.075% Lionsurf 20 737 was used as flotation agent. The postwashing was carried out in a Degussa cell.

Tap water containing 75 mg Ca²⁺/l was used in all the experiments.

Table 3. The total results after postwashing, when an alkoxylated fatty alcohol was used in pulping and a retention-disperger system in the bleaching.

Conditions	Rhoditec 1000					
	Silicate		PHAS		Polymer	
	Soap	R	Soap	R	Soap	R
Property						
Brightness % ISO	71.7	71.6	76.0	76.7	77.2	76.7
ERIC	39	66	31	71	23	33
Ink detachment %	94.6	89.5	96.1	88.9	95.9	94.9
Total yield %	56.4	56.6	57.3	56.3	57.0	56.6

5 R = Rhoditec 1000, an alkoxylated fatty alcohol, Rhodia S.A., France

Soap= Serfax MT 90, Stephenson Group Ltd., UK

Polymer= the 1:4 PHAS:polymer mixture according to the example 1.

A similar experiment was carried out with an alkoxylated fatty acid as the pulping chemical.

10 **Table 4.** The total results after postwashing, when an alkoxylated fatty acid was used in pulping and a retention-disperger system in the bleaching.

Conditions	Lionsurf 737					
	Silicate		PHAS		Polymer	
	Soap	L	Soap	L	Soap	L
Property						
Brightness % ISO	73.5	72.4	74.2	73.7	74.7	74.5
ERIC	34	32	32	26	27	29
Ink detachment %	96.4	96.0	96.8	96.4	97.5	97.7
Total yield %	58.1	57.9	58.2	60.0	60.1	58.4

L = Lionsurf 737, an alkoxylated fatty acid, Kemira Chemicals Inc., USA

Soap= Serfax MT 90, Stephenson Group Ltd., UK

15 Polymer= the 1:4 PHAS:polymer mixture according to the example 1.

When assessing the results, the results should only be compared with each others and not as in absolute terms, since the system did not contain the reject recycling, water circulation etc. This means that e.g. that lower yields than in a commercial deinking line were obtained.

5 It can be seen that both PHAS and the polymer containing only 20% of the PHAS amount can give comparable results as silicate in the complete deinking regarding the main properties of deinked pulp. The brightness with PHAS or with the polymer system was always higher than when using silicate in the bleaching.

10 It can also be seen that soap can be used in the flotation when the biggest amount of the calcium has been removed from the system, which is the case in post-flotation, when the calcium content of the original pulp has decreased, but the final results in general is lower than when the non-ionic surfactants had been used.

15 Both kinds of non-ionic surfactants can be used in both pulping-washing system and in flotation. Since the different kinds of non-ionic surfactants have a little different behaviour, the surfactants can also be combined, i.e. have a surfactant in pulping and the other one in the flotation. It can also be seen that by using the cheaper polymer composition according to the invention, the end products will not suffered compared with the results using PHAS.

20 **Table 5.** The amount of residual peroxide after a retention-disperger bleaching system

Pulping chemical	Residual peroxide %	
	R	L
Bleaching system	Silicate	18 %
	PHAS	29 %
	Polymer	30 %
		36 %
		37 %
		52 %

R = Rhoditec 1000, an alkoxylated fatty alcohol, Rhodia S.A., France

L = Lionsurf 737, an alkoxylated fatty acid, Kemira Chemicals Inc., USA

Polymer= the 1:4 PHAS:polymer mixture according to the example 1.

25 It can be seen that especially the polymer according to the invention gave a higher peroxide residual, while the brightness of the pulp was higher

Table 6. The total results after postwashing, when an alkoxylated fatty alcohol was used in pulping and a kneader-retention system was used in the bleaching.

Conditions	Rhoditec 1000		
Pulping Chemical	Silicate Soap	PHAS Soap	Polymer Soap
Bleaching treatment			
Post-flotation chemica			
Property			
Brightness % ISO	72.1	77.0	76.8
ERIC	68	61	57
Ink detachment %	88.6	.90.0	89.3
Total yield %	57.1	57.1	57.0

5 **Table 7.** The total results after postwashing, when an alkoxylated fatty acid was used in pulping and a kneader-retention system was used in the bleaching.

Conditions	Lionsurf 737		
Pulping Chemical	Silicate Soap	PHAS Soap	Polymer Soap
Bleaching treatment			
Post-flotation chemica			
Property			
Brightness % ISO	72.0	72.9	72.9
ERIC	41	35	31
Ink detachment %	95.2	95.6	97.1
Total yield %	55.7	59.3	59.8

10 It can be seen that comparable results with the retention-disperger bleaching system and soap in the flotation can be achieved, and the PHAS and the polymer system will give higher brightness.

Example 5

SIMULATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL OFFICE WASTE PAPER DEINKING LINE.

15 Pulp sample from an industrial mixed office waste deinking plant after the first deinking loop was taken. The pH of the industrial sample was about 8.4 Since it was assumed that the sample did not contain enough specks, a toner based office paper was pulped and acidified, after which the possible calcium carbonate filler was decomposed by acidification, filtered and pH adjusted to about 8.4.

12% of this pulp was mixed with the sample from an industrial process.

The properties of the pulps are described in the following.

Table 8. Pulp Characteristics

Pulp	Property	Property unit	Industrial pulp sample	Toner pulp	Chest
Entire pulp	Brightness Residual ink	% ISO ERIC (ppm)	72.4 66	59.7 726	70.2 136
Hyperwashed pulp	Brightness Residual ink	% ISO ERIC (ppm)	77.1 24	72.2 239	77 48
Entire pulp	Speck contamination	Number (nb/m ²) Area (mm ² /m ²)	6 280 137	607 890 12 160	86 045 1 656

5 The pH of the pulps used in the tests (measured in chest) was about 7.2 to 7.9. The deinking system is depicted in Figure 3.

In all the trials the water introduced was artificially hardened to 300 mg Ca²⁺/l.

10 About 30 kg/h of the artificially contaminated office waste paper pulp was introduced to flotation, under similar conditions as described in example 4. 0.075% of Lionsurf 737 was added as the flotation chemical. The pH at the flotation inlet after dilution was 7.4, 7.9 and 7.7 in the three experiments. After the flotation the pulp was vacuum filtered and then pressed to a 24% consistency, before the pulp was fed into a pilot bleaching stage.

The bleaching conditions are described in the following.

Table 9

Name of the trial	Chemicals introduced in bleaching	pH
Silicate	Silicate 11.6 kg/odtpulp, i.e. 1.16% Caustic soda 0.221% Hydrogen peroxide 1.04% (as 100%)	10.2
Polymer 5 kg	Polymer 5 kg/ odt pulp, i.e. 0.5% Caustic soda 0.354% Polymer 5 kg/ odt pulp, i.e. 0.5% Hydrogen peroxide 1.04% (as 100%)	9.1
Polymer 2.5 kg	Caustic soda 0.354% Polymer 2.55 kg/ odt pulp, i.e. 0.25% Hydrogen peroxide 1.04% (as 100%)	9.0

Polymer according to example 1

5 The bleaching in a pilot system could only have a 20 minutes retention time, and therefore only this bleaching time could be tested. When using silicate in the bleaching the brightness results in the pilot and laboratory was the same, while using the polymer according to the invention, the more controlled laboratory conditions yielded to a better bleaching efficiency. When using a laboratory bleaching a 90 minutes bleaching time could not much change the bleaching result 10 when the polymer was used instead of silicate.

It must be noticed that the amount of caustic soda used in the experiments had not been enough to raise the pH to the same level as in the experiment. The bleaching efficiency would therefore been even better, if a certain amount of excess alkali had been added in the experiments with the polymers according to the invention.

15 The pulp was introduced to a high speed disperger and then into the flotation 3 in laboratory, into which 0.3% (300 ml/tp) Lionsurf 737 was added. The pH in flotation was 9.2 when silicate had been used and 8.9-8.8 when the polymers had been used in the bleaching. The pulp was filtered in vacuum and pressed in a screw press and the final properties measured.

Table 10. Test results

Property/trial	Silicate	Polymer 5	Polymer 2.5
Brightness % ISO	78.6	78.0	78.8
Brightness % ISO, hyper washed pulp	80.3	80.7	81.1
Brightness % ISO with UV on	95.9	95.6	94.7
Brightness % ISO UV on, hyperwashed pulp	97.8	98.6	98.1
ERIC ppm	31	23	22
ERIC ppm, hyperwashed pulp	26	12	17
Specks mm ² /m ²	25	22	14
Specks nb/m ²	1147	870	614
Mean speck diameter µm	167	179	170
Process yield %	91.8	91.7	90.1
Ash content %	1.7	1.1	1.1
Ash removal %	63	76	76
Residual peroxide %			
in pilot plant for 20 min	88	67	81
Ink removal based on ERIC	78.5	84.2	84.2
Speck removal based on area	98.6	98.7	99.2
Speck removal based on number	98.7	99.0	99.3

5 Brightness difference without UV and UV on gives a measure for the content of optical brighteners in the pulp.

It can be seen that at least as good end results in deinking could be achieved, when the polymers according to the invention were used instead of the silicate in the bleaching stage.

10 The achieved ash content with the polymer according to the invention was, however, much lower than when a silicate based system was used. This enables to use the system for deinking office waste paper for making pulp for high grade printing and writing papers, where the pulp should have a low ash content in order to get a good and even properties for paper making.

15 It has to be mentioned that the residual bleaching liquor was not recycled into the 2nd deinking loop, see Fig. 3.

Example 6**DEINKING OF WOOD CONTAINING WASTE PAPER**

In the trials the following mixture of wood containing waste papers was used:

5 - 40% offset ONP (old newsprint)
 - 20 % offset heatset on SC paper
 - 20% offset OMG (old magazines)
 - 20% rotogravure SC

10 Pulpings were carried out in a Helico pulper at a consistency of 16% and at a temperature of about 45°C and tap water containing 70 g Ca²⁺/l was used as the feed water. The pulpings were carried out in the following systems

K1 = 2% of commercial sodium silicate solution and 0.7% of soap
K2 = 0.25% of PHAS and 0.3% of Lionsurf 737
K3 = 0.25% of PHAS and 0.3% of Lionsurf 5140
K4 = 0.5% of the polymer and 0.7% of soap
15 K5 = 0.5% of the polymer and 0.3% of Lionsurf 737
 K6 = 0.5% of the polymer and 0.3% of Lionsurf 5140

Soap = Serfax MT 90

Lionsurf 737 = an alkoxylated fatty acid

20 Lionsurf 5140 = a mixture of alkoxylated fatty acid and fatty acids, about 50:50% by weight

Polymer = the 1:4 PHAS:polymer mixture according to the example 1.

K5 and K6 represent the present invention.

The pulping time were varied from 3 to 20 minutes, but only the reports for 10 minutes are reported.

25 After the pulpings, the pulps were filtered and pressed and then diluted with tap water to a 1% consistency. The flotation was carried out in Voith laboratory flotation cell for 7 minutes at 45°C with an air ratio of 170%.

After filtering, washing and pressing, the pulps were bleached in plastic bags for 1 hour at 80°C and at 15% consistency. The common additions were 1% of sodium

hydroxide on oven dried pulp, 1% hydrogen peroxide (as 100%) and 0.3% of commercial DTPA pentasodium salt solution. In the bleaching experiment either 2.5% of sodium silicate solution, or 0.25% of PHAS solution or 0.5% of the 25% polymer solution according to the invention were used.

5 **Table 11:** Experiments and results after 10 minutes pulping and after bleaching

System/ property	K 1 silicate + soap	K2 PHAS + Lionsurf 737	K3 PHAS + Lionsurf 5140	K4 Polymer + soap	K5 Polymer + Lionsurf 737	K6 Polymer + Lionsurf 5140
After pulping and 1st flotation						
Ink removal index %	71.8	82.4	73.9	76.0	73.9	78.8
Specks nb/m ²	7108	5747	6396	6609	5859	5987
Specks mm ² /m ²	510	369	424	441	408	397
Ash content %	18	12.3	13.3	16.6	14.5	14.5
Foam volume	0.717	1.321	1.355	0.87	1.456	1.226
After bleaching						
with silicate						
- Brightness % ISO	65.6					
- ERIC ppm	260					
- Residual peroxide	0.41					
with PHAS						
- Brightness % ISO		65.5	65.1			
- ERIC ppm		217	275			
- Residual peroxide		0.21	0.44			
With polymer						
- Brightness % ISO				64.0	63.8	63.3
- ERIC ppm				328	265	248
- Residual peroxide				0.38	0.13	0.13

It can be seen that with PHAS and the polymer system as good results as with a total silicate based system can be achieved. The system with the polymer according to the invention gives a little lower brightness, but the reason for this is that the alkali content has been too high, which can be seen in that that the residual peroxide content is very low, which means that hydrogen peroxide is consumed in decomposition due to the too high pH compared with the silicate system. Silicate can buffer the pH, but the polymer does not have the same strong effect.

15 It can also be noticed that the ash content of the deinked pulp already after the first flotation is much lower than in a conventional system with silicate. Since the deinking line can include at least one more flotation stage or one or more washing stages, when the pulp is intended for tissue production, the invented system will

be advantageous in the whole deinking line for making deinked pulp for tissue production.

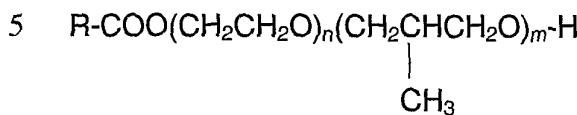
Claims

1. A process for deinking waste paper comprising treating the waste paper with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of a first polymer (A) comprising a Ca-binding polymer in the form of a polycarboxylate polymer and a second polymer (B) comprising a poly- α -hydroxyacrylic acid or a salt thereof or the corresponding polylactone, said process additionally comprising treating the waste paper with at least one non-ionic surfactant or with at least one combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof to promote ink detachment and/or ink removal.
5
- 10 2. The process of claim 1 wherein the Ca-binding polymer is in the form of a raw polycarboxylate polymer (A).
- 15 3. The process of claim 2 wherein the Ca-binding raw polycarboxylate polymer (A) comprises a raw polymer obtained from the homopolymerization of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid or from the copolymerization of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, said raw polymer having a pH of below 7, preferably below 6 and more preferably below 5.
- 20 4. The process of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the polymers (A) and (B) are introduced in the form of a solution containing both polymers.
5. The process of claim 4 wherein the polymer solution has a pH of at most 7, 25 preferably at most 6, and more preferably at most 5.
6. The process of any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 4000, preferably at least 10000, and more preferably at least 30000, and the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 5000, preferably at least 10000, and more preferably at least 15000.
- 25 7. The process of any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with maleic acid or itaconic acid, wherein the molar ratio of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid to maleic acid and/or itaconic acid is from 80:20 to 20:80, preferably from 70:30 to 30:70.
- 30 8. The process of any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the share of the second polymer (B) is from 1 to 50% by weight of the total amount of the first polymer (A) and the second polymer (B).

9. The process of any of claims 1 to 8 wherein the amount of the polymers (A) and (B) is from 0.01 to 0.5% by weight, preferably from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight, and more preferably from 0.02 to 0.1% by weight of dry waste paper pulp.
10. The process of any of claims 1 to 9 wherein the addition points of the polymers (A) and (B) are close to the addition points of the peroxide compound and the alkaline compound.
11. The process of any of claims 1 to 10 wherein the treatment with the peroxide compound in an aqueous medium in the presence of the polymers (A) and (B) is carried out in a pulper and/or in a bleaching step.
12. The process of any of claims 1 to 11 wherein the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof is carried out in a pulper followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps.
13. The process of any of claims 1 to 12 wherein the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof is carried out in one or more flotation and/or washing steps.
14. The process of any of claims 1 to 13 wherein the treatment with the non-ionic surfactant or with the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof is carried out both in a pulper and in one or more flotation and/or washing steps, wherein the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof used in the pulper and in the flotation and/or washing step(s) can be the same or different.
15. The process of any of claims 1 to 14 wherein the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof comprises at most 50% by weight of the fatty acid or a salt thereof.
16. The process of any of claims 1 to 15 wherein the process comprises at least one peroxide bleaching step followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps carried out in the presence of a fatty acid or a salt thereof or the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof.
17. The process of claim 16 wherein the flotation and/or washing step(s) are carried out in the presence of a fatty acid or a salt thereof in an amount not

exceeding about 90 % by weight of the total amount of surfactants used in the deinking process.

18. The process of any of claims 1 to 17 wherein the non-ionic surfactant comprises a fatty acid derivative of the general formula

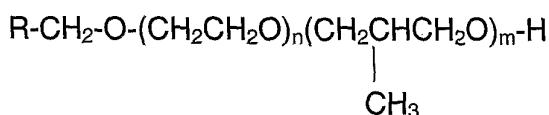


wherein R is a fatty acid alkyl group with C5 - C21 carbon atoms, preferably C13-C19 carbon atoms and more preferably C15-C18 carbon atoms,

10 n is the average number of ethylene oxide units and is from about 5 to 100, preferably from about 7 to 75, and more preferably from about 10 to 30, and

m is the average number of propylene oxide units and is from about 0 to 30, preferably from about 3 to 25, and more preferably from about 4 to 20.

19. The process according to any of claims 1 to 17 wherein the non-ionic surfactant comprises a fatty alcohol derivative of the general formula



wherein R is a fatty alcohol alkyl group with C5 - C21 carbon atoms, preferably C13-C19 carbon atoms and more preferably C15-C18 carbon atoms,

n is the average number of ethylene oxide units and is from about 5 to 100, preferably from about 7 to 75, and more preferably from about 10 to 30, and

m is the average number of propylene oxide units and is from about 0 to 30, preferably from about 3 to 25, and more preferably from about 4 to 20.

25 20. The process of any of claims 1 to 19 wherein the total amount of the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of the non-ionic surfactant and the fatty acid or a salt thereof is from 0.001 to 1.5% by weight, preferably from 0.01 to 0.75% by weight, and more preferably from 0.15 to 0.5% by weight of dry waste paper.

21. The process of any of claims 1 to 20 wherein the waste paper is recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW) and/or wood-containing old newsprint (ONP) and/or old magazine (OMG).

22. The process of any of claims 1 to 21 wherein the waste paper is recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW), said process comprising treating the MOW in a pulper in the presence of the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof, followed by flotation and/or washing for ink removal, and thereafter bleaching with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of the first polymer (A) and the second polymer (B).

23. The process of any of claims 1 to 22 wherein the waste paper is recycled paper comprising essentially wood-free mixed office waste (MOW) and wherein the process produces a deinked pulp having a low ash content, preferably less than 10% by weight, more preferably less than 5% by weight, and most preferably less than 3% by weight of dry pulp.

24. The process of any of claims 1 to 21 wherein the waste paper is recycled paper comprising wood-containing old newsprint (ONP) and/or old magazine (OMG), said process comprising treating the ONP and/or OMG in a pulper with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium in the presence of the first polymer (A), the second polymer (B), and the non-ionic surfactant or the combination of a non-ionic surfactant and a fatty acid or a salt thereof, followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps for ink removal, and optionally bleaching with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium optionally in the presence of the first polymer (A) and the second polymer (B) and/or with dithionite.

25. The process of any of claims 1 to 24 wherein the process comprises a first peroxide bleaching step followed by one or more flotation and/or washing steps and a second bleaching step, preferably comprising a reductive bleaching step, such as a sodium dithionite bleaching step or a sodium formamidine sulfonic acid step.

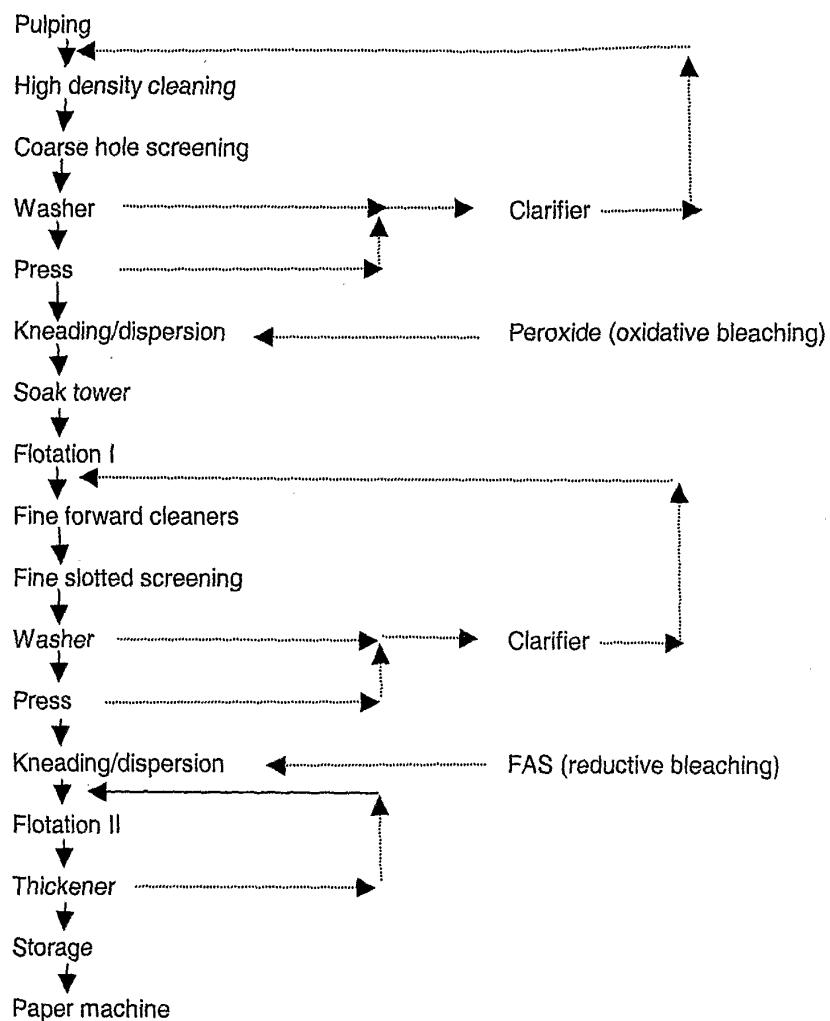


Fig. 1a

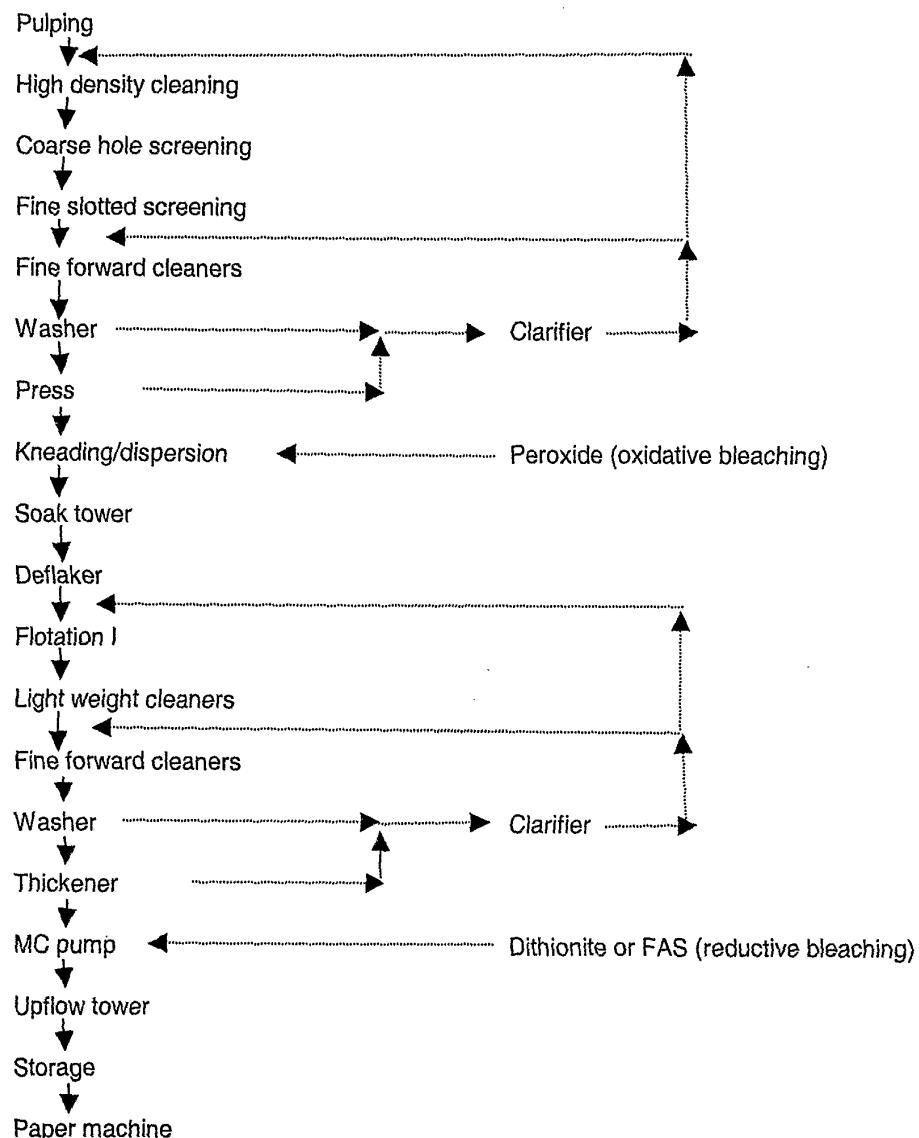


Fig. 1b

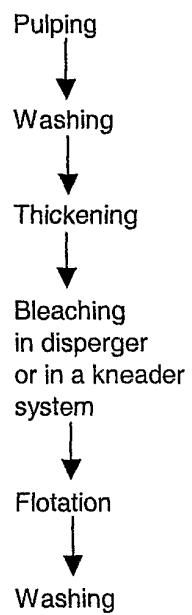


Fig 2

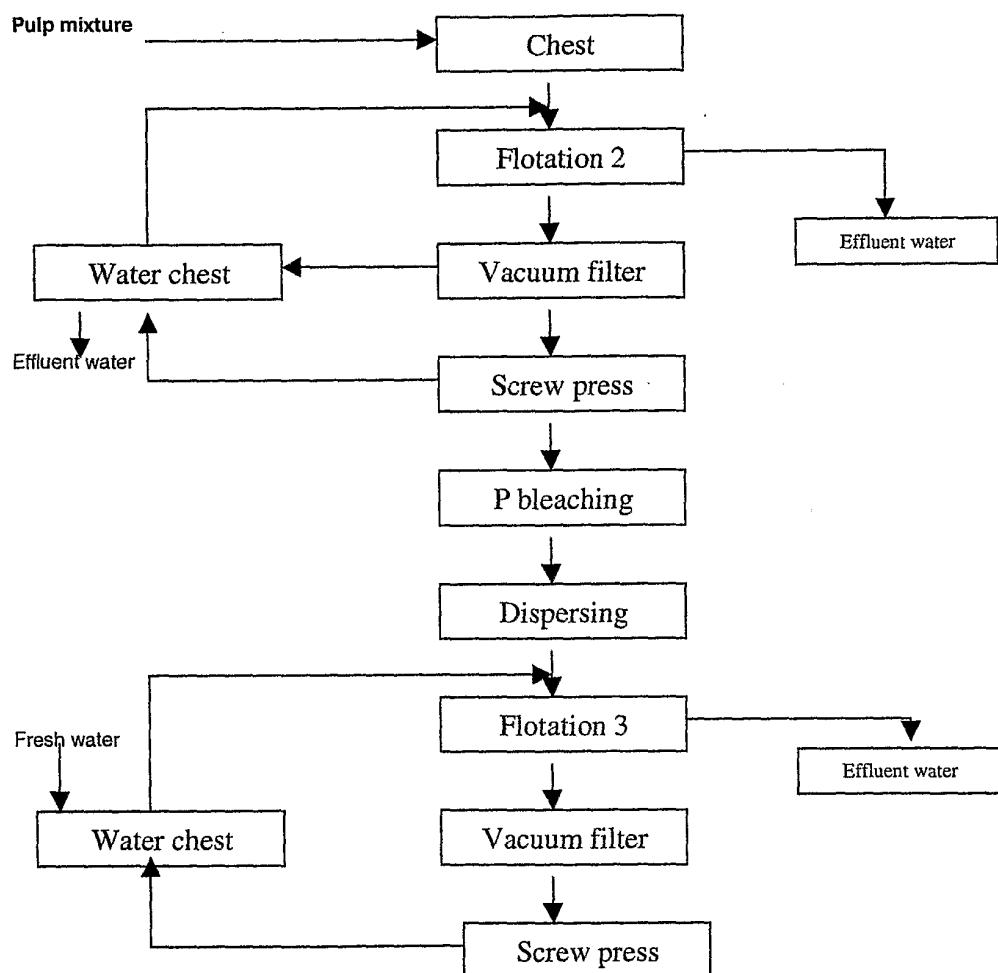


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/FI2005/000283

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 D21C5/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 D21C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 347 099 A (DE CEUSTER ET AL) 31 August 1982 (1982-08-31) cited in the application column 6, line 2 - line 7 claims 1,8-10,14	1-3,5
Y	the whole document -----	1-25
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P, Y	US 6 784 146 B1 (LUO JING ET AL) 31 August 2004 (2004-08-31) abstract claim 1 ----- -/-	1-25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 October 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/10/2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/FI2005/000283

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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