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New study for protection of carbon steel of petroleum equipment by Al/ Zn epoxide

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ABSTRACT

The epoxy compound; Kema POX RL 671 X 75; Chemicals and Technologies Company; is used as a resin material. It is formulated at ratio 100 parts with inorganic filler as 25 parts of aluminum past, 15 parts Talc, 10 parts Silica gel, 10 parts of TiO₂ and different ratios of Zinc dust 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 parts. These formulas are cured with Kema POX HF 115 70 at 10, 20 and 30 parts of toluene di-isocyanate (TDI). The visual inspection, physical, mechanical and chemical properties such as Wet Film Thickness (WFT), Dry Film Thickness (DFT), adhesion force, bending, impact, and hardness were studied. Sea water effect at period time of two weeks for the formed dry films was studied in salt spray test. The surfaces of the films were visually inspected by magnification power after all tests. The results indicated that the corrosion spots did not be detected on the surface of the formed dry films. Potentiodynamic polarization and electrochemical impedance spectroscopic studies were performed for the formed dry films. These results approved that; these films can be used as protecting agents for the surfaces of petroleum equipment against corrosion.

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KEYWORDS

Coating carbon steel;
Physical;
Mechanical and chemical
properties corrosion protection.

INTRODUCTION

The carbon steel is used in large scale for production and manufacture of petroleum, petrochemical equipments and different industries^[1-4]. Corrosion problems may occur in numerous systems within the petroleum industry^[5-11]. Organic coatings may be used to protect metallic materials against physical and chemical environments. Generally, inhibitive inorganic pigments are introduced into organic coatings as the main substance for corrosion inhibition. These pigments are played an important factor in the performance of a coating and act as anticorrosive resistance of metals^[6,7]. For this

purpose, the zinc is commonly used in the corrosion process of coatings and improves the barrier properties of the coating. It can also inhibit the cathodic process at the interface. However, also the zinc either acted in compliance with electrochemical mechanism or improved the barrier function of the binder^[11]. Our knowledge was insufficient for better understanding of the role of zinc pigment on the corrosion of the coatings. Therefore, to clearly understand the action mechanism of zinc pigment, further studies on this topic were really of necessary.

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) is a well-known electrochemical means to evaluate the

performance of organic coatings, and has proven to be a powerful tool for acquiring specific parameters of systems of organic coatings/metals mechanism information^[12-16].

The aim of this work depends on the formulation of 100 parts epoxy compound with inorganic filler as 25 parts of Al paste, 15 parts Talc, 10 parts Silica and 10 TiO₂ parts and different ratio of Zn dust 0.0, 5, 10, 20 and 25 parts to produce formulas Y₀ - Y₅. In order to study the effect of different Zn dust ratio in organic coating and to evaluate the performance of the coatings in presence of Al The visual inspection, physical, mechanical and chemical properties of the formed dry films are evaluated and discussed. Also electrochemical impedance spectroscopic studies were also performed on the formulas Y₀ - Y₅ in salt water as electrolyte media.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation of painting formula

100 parts of the epoxy compound Kema POX RLX 75 from chemicals and technologies company were mixed with 25 parts of Al paste 15 parts Talc, 10 parts silica gel, 10 parts of TiO₂ and different parts of Zn dust 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 parts respectively. The Kema POX HF 115 × 70 was used at three concentrated ratio 10, 20 and 30 parts as a curing agent, to obtain various formulation designated from Y₀-Y₅. These formulations were applied on the prepared surfaces of carbon steel specimens by brushing method.

Preparation of the surface metal specimen

Each specimen was cleaned, polished with different grade emery paper 150, 400 and 600. Rinsed with distilled water, degreased with acetone, weight and finally stored under vacuum. These formulations were applied by brushing method^[17]. A set of specimens were coated with these formulas Y₀-Y₅ and cured under static air, ambient pressure and temperature.

Evaluation of the physical, mechanical and chemical properties

The coating films were examined by measuring the WFT, DFT, adhesion force, impact test, bending, hardness, pull off, chemical test (Salt Spray) and electrochemical test. The evaluation of the physical and me-

chanical properties of the formed coating films were carried out through the following characterization techniques:

Physical properties

Visual inspection

The coating films on the surface of specimens were visually inspected after application to determine sealing, sagging, fish eyes, shrinking, coagulation, smoothness and homogeneity^[18] were inspected and Tabulated.

Measuring the (WFT) of coating according to ASTM (D-1212-91)

The WFT Gauge type elcometer is used for assessing the thickness of freshly applied coating films for all formulations Y₀-Y₅ at ambient temperature. The obtained result was recorded after coating immediately.

Measuring the (DFT) of coating according to ASTM (D-1186 and D 1005)

The DFT of the formed films Y₀-Y₅ after cured, were measured by using Posit-Ector, model 6000-FT₂, coating thickness with probe gauge 6000-FT₂.

Mechanical properties. Adhesion technique according to ASTM (D 3359)

These test methods cover procedures for assessing the adhesion force of coating dry films to metallic surfaces by cross hatch cutting tool, X cut tape test are made in the film of the substrate surface, and pressure sensitive tape is applied over the cut and then removed. The data of adhesive forces for the formed films from the formula Y₀-Y₅ were recorded.

Impact test according to ASTM (G 14-88)

This test method cover the determination of the energy required to rupture coating films under specified conditions of impact from a falling weight, at varying heights. (Impact apparatus sheen instrument LTD). Visual inspection to detect the resultant breaks in the coating surface. (Maintain a constant height 1 meter then reduce the height by 50cm).

Bending test according to ASTM (D522)

These test method cover the determination of resistance to cracking (flexibility) using Conical Mandrel Test Apparatus.

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Pull off strength of coating film by dolly test according to ASTM (D-4541)

The general pull off test is performed by securing a loading fixture (dolly) perpendicular to the surface of the dry coating film with an adhesive. After the adhesive is cured, a testing apparatus is attached to the loading fixture and aligned to apply tension normal to the test surface. The Elcometer 108 is a Hydraulic adhesion tester, the value of the force applied is displayed on a digital display. Load is applied through the center of the dolly by hydraulic piston and pin. The pressure reacted by the dolly is the same as the pressure in the bore and is transmitted directly to the pressure slowly by turning the handle clockwise. The tester is available in the working range 0-3000psi (0to20MPa), Units of Psi (MPa=1N\mm²)

Chemical properties

The corrosion resistance of the formed films is evaluated by Salt Spray test, potentiodynamic polarization and electrochemical impedance spectroscopic studies^[19].

Salt Spray Cabinet Model Sf \ 450

Salt Spray Cabinet Model Sf \ 450 was used for evaluating the corrosion resistance of the formed films was according to ASTM B117-03) and the test was conducted using 5.5% sodium chloride solution (PH 6.5-7). The corrosion resistance of the formed film was evaluated and recorded. The edges of the specimen were sealed with paraffin wax to avoid the excessive corrosion at the edges. Blank (without Zn dust) and the formed films were scribed to the base metal with a sharp needle so that the base metal is exposed to the salt mist. The spreading of corrosion from the X scribe, after 2 weeks of exposure were assessed and photographed.

Electrochemical measurements

Electrochemical experiments were carried out by means of impedance equipment (Tacussel- Radiometer PGZ 301) and controlled with Tacussel corrosion analysis soft ware (Volta master 4), connected to a personal computer. Measurements were obtained using the electrochemical cell containing five openings: three of them were used for the electrodes and two for nitrogen bubbling during all the experiments. The formed films are

the working electrode. The counter electrode was a platinum electrode and the reference electrode was a saturated calomel electrode (SCE). All potentials in the test are quoted versus this electrode. The surface area of working electrode was 1 cm² and mounted in a glass tube with araldite epoxy^[20]

Potentiodynamic polarization technique according to ASTM G5-94^[21]

The polarization measurements were carried out and the anodic/cathodic polarization curves were recorded under a constant sweep rate of 20 mvs⁻¹, initial potential -1000 mV and final potential 0 mV. The corrosion potential (E_{con}) and corrosion current density (i_{con}) were calculated using computer program method (Volta Lab master 4).

Electrochemical impedance (EIS) according to ASTM - G106-89

The EIS measurements were performed at open circuit potential in the frequency range from 100 kHz to 10 mHz, with an alternating current amplitude of 10 mV. Each measurement was taken after 2 hr of immersion in corresponding solution^[22].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1 illustrates the chemical formula Y_0 - Y_5 and curing agent percentages, which were applied on the prepared surface of specimens to optimize the condition of curing agent at 20 parts.

TABLE 1 : The chemical composition of the paintings formula Y_0 - Y_5

Formula composition / parts	Y ₀	Y ₁	Y ₂	Y ₃	Y ₄	Y ₅
Epoxy Kema POX	100	100	100	100	100	100
Zn dust	0	5	10	15	20	25
TiO ₂	10	10	10	10	10	10
Silica gel	10	10	10	10	10	10
Solvent	10	10	10	10	10	10
Al paste	25	25	25	25	25	25
	10	10	10	10	10	10
Curing agent ratio	20	20	20	20	20	20
	30	30	30	30	30	30

TABLE 2 data indicated that the time of touch dry for formula Y_0 - Y_5 were decrease by increasing organic additives. Results indicated the compatibility of the binder with the inorganic filler and complete reaction with the

TABLE 2 : Data of the optimum condition for the curing agent with respect to time for the formula at ambient temp

Ratio of the curing agent	Touch dry time for each formed films from the formula (min.)					
	Y ₀	Y ₁	Y ₂	Y ₃	Y ₄	Y ₅
10	30	24	21	15	7	5
20	26	21-22	18-19	10	5	3
30	17	13	10	6	3	2

TABLE 5 : The mechanical properties of dry films formed from Epoxy compound

Formula	Bending	Adhesion	Impact		Pull off
			50 cm	100cm	
Y ₀	Pass	fail	Pass	fail	4 MPa
Y ₁	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	4 MPa
Y ₂	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	4 MPa
Y ₃	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	3 MPa
Y ₄	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	3 MPa
Y ₅	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	3 MPa

TABLE 3 : Data of the visual inspection after application of the painting films formed by the formula Y₀-Y₅ of epoxy compounds

Formula	Sealing	Sagging	Fisheyes	Shrinking	Coagulation	Smoothes	Homogeneity
Y ₀	No sealed				No	High	
Y ₁	No sealed				No	Smooth	
Y ₂	No sealed	Not sagging	No fish eyes appeared	No shrinking	No	Smooth	Homogeneity of the formed films
Y ₃	No sealed				Few	Smooth	
Y ₄	No sealed	Few	Rough				
Y ₅	No sealed	Few	Rough				

TABLE 4 : the physical measurements of the formed films from Epoxy, WFT, DFT films thickness and touch dry at ambient temp.

Formula	Wet films thickness	Dry films thickness	Touch dry	Curing temp.	Relative humidity	Optimum curing ratio
Y ₀	200 μm	180 μm	30 min	20°C	50 %	20
Y ₁	200 μm	180 μm	28 min.	20°C	50 %	20
Y ₂	200μm	185μm	25 min.	20°C	50%	20
Y ₃	200μm	185 μm	20 min.	20°C	50 %	20
Y ₄	200 μm	190μm	18 min.	20°C	50 %	20
Y ₅	200 μm	190 μm	12 min.	20°C	50%	20

curing agent.

The films formed from formula Y₀-Y₅ at optimize condition were visually inspected and listed in TABLE 3.

Physical and mechanical measurements

Data of WFT, DFT were given in TABLE 4. These data indicating the DFT were increased with increasing the inorganic additives.

Mechanical properties data were given in TABLE 5 and showed that the dry films formed from Y₀-Y₅ were improved with increasing the amount of fillers and inorganic additives. The adhesive force of the formula Y₀ was failed, while adhesive force from the formula Y₁-Y₅ were passed. These data showed that the adhesion forces was increased by increasing the Zn ratio of the inorganic additives. The bending and impact test for the formed dry films were improved with increasing the inorganic additives

Chemical properties; salt spray

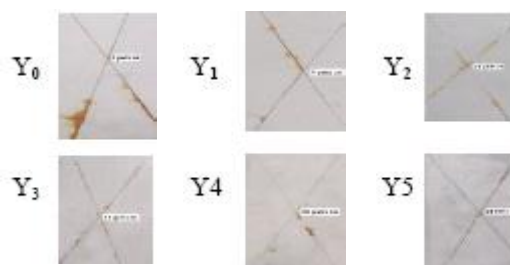
**Figure 1:** The corrosion behavior of the formed dry films subjected to salt spray by 5.5 % NaCl for 2 weeks

Figure 1 illustrate evaluation of corrosion resistance of Zn coatings by Salt Spray test assumes significance. The ability to prevent under film corrosion is best measured by assessing the spreading of corrosion from the X-scribed made on the dry films formed. After 2 weeks of Salt Spray test, the type of corrosion product formed in the scribed region it self is quite different from that dry film Y₀ (without zinc). Visual observation of the corrosion product on the surface of the dry films (Y₀-Y₅) indicates the formation of red rust film appeared after 7 dyes in Y₀, after 10 days in Y₁, after 12 days in Y₂, Y₃ while in case Y₄, Y₅ no spots appeared until 15 days. This exposes the base metal for further corrosion. Salt Spray test convincingly proves the white rust formation on the scribed region of the painted dry film and in most parts of the surface after 10 days. The corrosion behavior of dry films formed exhibits the stability of this coating films which lasts for 12 days with no red rust formation. Results were indicated that the films formed from the formula Y₂-Y₅ were valid for protecting the surface of carbon steel against aggressive media. Generally, due to the ratio of spots to the total sur-

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TABLE 6 : Visual inspection for the effect of synthetic sea water 5.5%NACL on the surface of the formed dry films for 2 weeks

Period time (days)	Y ₀	Y ₁	Y ₂	Y ₃	Y ₄	Y ₅
1	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
2	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
3	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
5	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
7	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
8	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
10	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
12	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	No spots	No spots	No spots	No spots
15	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	Few corrosion spots on scribe line	No spots	No spots

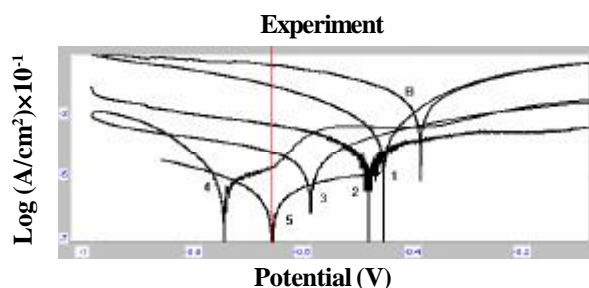


Figure 2 : Tafel plots for the dry films formed of different formula Y₀-Y₅ B: Y₀ = 0 Zn dust, 1-5 : (Y₁ - Y₅) respectively measured in sea water

face area was less than 0.1%.

Polarization measurements

Figure 2 shows the cathodic and anodic polarization curves of the formed dry films (y₀-y₅).

Electrochemical parameters such as corrosion potential (E_{corr}), corrosion current density (i_{corr}), cathodic and anodic Tafle slops (ba and bc) and polarization resistance (R_p) were calculated and listed in TABLE 7.

The efficiency (I %) was calculated using the following equation:

$$I \% = (1 - i/i_0) 100 \quad (1)$$

Where i₀ and i are the corrosion current densities in the absence and presence of the different zn dust ratio respectively. The values of polarization resistance (R_p) were calculated from the well- Known stern - geary equation

$$R_p = ba bc / 2.303 i_{corr} (ba + bc) \quad (2)$$

It is evident from the above figure and TABLE that the E_{corr} shifts towards more negative (higher cathodic values) compared to that film without Zn dust Y₀. The shift in corrosion potential towards more cathodic value

TABLE 7 : Relation of the composition of different Zn dust ratio of coating with the -E_{corr}, I_{corr}, R_p, and E% measured by potentiodynamic method measured in sea water

Formula	Zn ratio%	-E _{corr} , mV	I _{corr} , mA/Cm ²	R _p , ΩCm ²	I %
Y ₀	0	-399.3	3.76	12.83	-
Y ₁	5	-466.4	0.63	87.95	83
Y ₂	10	-492.5	0.12	379.39	96.8
Y ₃	15	-602.2	0.09	1000.09	97.6
Y ₄	20	-759.9	0.06	2000.79	98.4
Y ₅	25	-571	0.04	12000.74	98.9

is due to the increase of metallic zinc dust ratio in the formed film. The increase in Zn dust ratio leads to the increase in R_p (polarization resistance) and I % (efficiency) while i_{corr} is decreased.

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopic study (EIS)

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) is used to examine the activity difference between the formed films in absent of Zn dust and presence of different ratios of Zn dust. Impedance is a totally complex resistance when a current flows through a circuit made of capacitors, resistors, or insulators, or any combination of these^[23]. EIS measurement results in currents over a wide range in frequency. Corrosion metals are modeled with an equivalent circuit (called a Randles circuit) as illustrated in figure 3a, which is made of a double layer capacitor in parallel with a charge transfer resistor and connected in series with a electrolyte solution resistor. The impedance (Z) depends on the charge transfer resistance (Rct), the solution resistance (Rs), the capacitance of the electrical double layer, and the

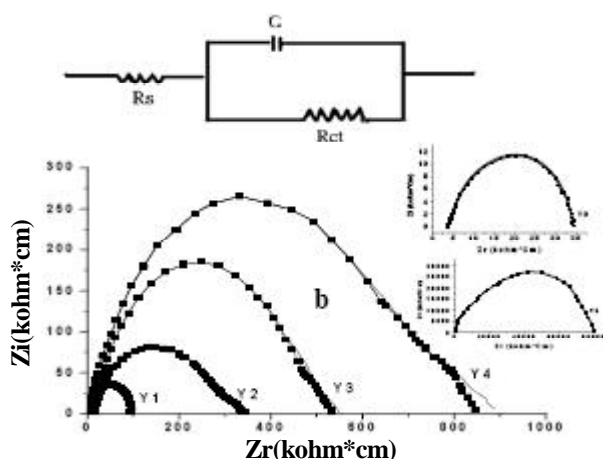


Figure 3: (a): Randles equivalent circuit, (b): Typical Nyquist diagrams of the formed films in sea water solution in the absence and presence of various ratio of Zn dust

TABLE 8 : Impedance measurements and inhibition efficiencies for the formed films in sea water solution in the absence and presence of various ratio of Zn dust

Sample no.	R_s Ohm cm^2	N°	C_{dl} $\mu\text{F cm}^{-2}$	I%
Y ₀	35	0.82	16.5	-
Y ₁	105	0.85	0.00058	66
Y ₂	350	0.79	0.00036	90
Y ₃	555	0.76	0.000174	39.6
Y ₄	850	0.83	0.00017	95.8
Y ₅	8000	0.84	0.00015	99.5

frequency of the AC signal (ω).

The high-frequency intercept is equal to the solution resistance, and the low-frequency intercept is equal to the sum of the solution and charge transfer resistances [24].

Typical Nyquist diagrams are shown in figure 3b. It is clear that the diagrams display non-perfect semi-circles of the formed films in sea water solution in the absence and presence of various ratio of Zn dust. This behavior can be attributed to frequency dispersion [25].

The equivalent circuit model for electrochemical impedance measurements [26], where R_s is the solution resistance, R_t the charge transfer resistance and C_{dl} is the electrochemical double layer capacitance given in figure 3a. Various electrochemical parameters derived from Nyquist plots are calculated and listed in TABLE 8. The values of R_t were given by subtracting the high frequency impedance from the low frequency one as follow [27]

$$R_t = Z_{re} \text{ (at low frequency)} - Z_{re} \text{ (at high frequency)} \quad (3)$$

The values of electrochemical double layer capacitance C_{dl} were Calculated at the frequency f_{max} , at

which the imaginary component of the impedance is maximal ($-Z_{max}$) by the following equation [28]

$$C_{dl} = 1 / 2\pi f_{max} \times 1/R_t \quad (4)$$

The values of percentage inhibition efficiency (I%) were calculated from the values of R_t according to the following equation [29]

$$I\% = \frac{R_t(Zn=y_1-y_2) - R_t(Zn=y_0)}{R_t(Zn=y_1-y_2)} \times 100 \quad (5)$$

where $R_t(Zn=y_0)$ and $R_t(Zn=y_1-y_2)$ are the values of the charge transfer resistance in the absence and presence of different ratios of Zn dust, respectively. The impedance data listed in TABLE 3 indicate that the values of both R_t and I% are found to increase by increasing the Zn ratio Concentration, while the values of C_{dl} are found to decrease. This behavior can be attributed to increase in the thickness of the electrical double layer, suggests that the Zn molecules act by adsorption on the surface of carbon steel (steel / epoxy interface) [30].

CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusion of the present study could be summarized in the following points:

1. Formula of the formed films $y_0 - y_5$ was compatibility of the binder with the inorganic filler and complete reaction with the curing agent.
2. The DFT were increased with increasing the inorganic additives
3. The adhesion, bending and impact techniques for the formed dry films were improved with increasing the inorganic additives
4. Results from chemical test were indicated that the films formed from the formula $Y_2 - Y_5$ were valid for protecting the surface of carbon steel against aggressive media. Generally, due to the ratio of spots to the total surface area was less than 0.1%.
5. The shift in corrosion potential towards more cathodic value is due to the increase of metallic zinc dust ratio in the formed film. The increase in Zn dust ratio leads to the increase in R_p (polarization resistance) and I% (efficiency) while i_{corr} is decreased.
6. The values of both R_t and I% are found to increase by increasing the Zn ratio Concentration, while the values of C_{dl} are found to decrease. This behavior can be attributed to increase in the thickness of the electrical double layer.
7. The net result indicating the validity of the formed dry films for protection of carbon steel in petroleum equipments.

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