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# Residential fire solutions in the building sector

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### **Biomaterials and residental fires**

#### the current work on biomaterials and composites intends to find:

- sustainable solutions using biomaterials in construction with a focus on fire safety
- Different methods for production and fire testing of bio-based materials and composites will be reviewed
- Hereunder, the fire properties of bio-based resins as lignin is investigated.



## Biomaterials and residential fires ?

#### • There is a (new) demand for alternative sustainable construction materials

- New material combinations to reach new technical and commercial targets
- Wish for "natural" surfaces, facades, structures
- Materials with high insulation
- Healthy indoor climate

#### · Materials need to fulfill certain demands, as:

- Emissions: e.g. minimum VOC
- Physical- mechanical properties, similar to wood-based products
- Demands from Fire Safety Engineering

### Sustainable buildings

Improved properties concerning:

- Energy reduction -> better insulation
- New Energy systems -> production: solar panels, fuel cell systems; energy storage: batteries, heat storages
- Circular economy -> construction materials need to be reusable
- Sustainability versus fire safety engineering -> both need to be assessed
  - maybe not sufficiently considered in practise?
    - --> the recent accidents Grenfell tower fire, gigantinum, Rødovre etc.

## How to protect ?

- What is the area of application of the new building material?
  - Indoor, outdoor ?
  - Shall it be reusable within circular economy?
- Is it possible to protect by shielding or intumescent paint?
- Fire resistant building materials:
  - What present FR system shall be used?
    - Boron based ?
    - Aluminium hydroxide ?
    - Ammoniumphosphate based ?
    - Other protection ?

### Fire retardents

- The application of flame-retardants is a common solution,
- but
  - many flame-retardants have adverse effects to human health and the environment..
  - An example are boron compounds, which are widely used as flame-retardants to reduce the ignitibility of biomaterials,
  - a number of these compounds are on the ECHA list, because of toxic concerns
  - borates tend to wash out, and may impact the surrounding environment.
  - Therefore, its application may become questioned in the future.



### **Development of new biocomposites**



#### Separation in components





#### Pressing to plades

# Literature example: Using Lignin in FR systems for polyurethane

Xing, W. et al., 2013. Functionalized lignin for halogen-free flame retardant rigid polyurethane foam: Preparation, thermal stability, fire performance and mechanical properties. Journal of Polymer Research, 20(9), pp.1–12.

FR by mass percent fraction.				
Sample	MDI	Polyol	Lignin-POH (wt.%)	PFAPP (wt.%)
PU	150	100	0	0
PU/PFAPP	150	100	0	15
PU/PFAPP/PL30	150	70	30	15

Table 1 Formulations of PU composite foams based on Lignin-POH and

MDI – Methylene diphenol diisocyanatPFAPP - Microencapsulated APP



Lignin-POH (Xing et al. 2013) Made form wheat straw alkali lignin



#### **Flame retarded Polyurethane**



FR – PFAPP encapsulatet (phenol-formaldehyde) ammonium polyphosphate PL30 – functionalized lignin replaces polyol by 30 %w/w



### Potential for improvement?

Composites of hemp fibers &poly(L-lactide) acid (PLA)

Oxidative TGA results



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#### Status of activities and next steps



First Plantfiber-lignin biocomposites are produced. The next step is to investigate the thermal properties using TGA and DSC and reaction to fire using cone /bomb calorimetry



#### THAT'S ALL FOR NOW

THANK YOU

#### QUESTIONS ?

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