



## THE EFFECT OF FULL-CELL IMPREGNATION OF PINE WOOD (*PINUS SYLVESTRIS* L.) ON THE FINE DUST CONTENT DURING SAWING ON A FRAME SAWING MACHINE

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### Abstract

*In this paper the results of the analysis of the effect of the impregnation treatment of pine wood on the granularity of sawdust from the sawing process on the frame sawing machine PRW 15M are presented. Granulometric analyses of chips from impregnated and unimpregnated pine wood implies that the impregnation of pine wood does not affect the size and structure of the sawdust produced. A major  $\approx 95\%$  share of the formed chips is the coarse and thick coarse fractions at a grain range of 125  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2 mm. The slight difference is in the fraction of the fine fraction with a particle size of 32 - 125  $\mu\text{m}$ . While the share of pine wood sawdust of unimpregnated wood is between 0.48 and 0.8%, and of the impregnated wood pine wood is 0.68 - 1.1%. This fact does not affect the efficiency of separation in fabric filters and the technological use of sawdust in the production of briquettes and pellets.*

**Key words:** sawdust, impregnation of wood, pine wood, sawing process, frame sawing machine

### INTRODUCTION

The increasing interest in sawdust, as a secondary raw material, in the last years, requires a proper specification of its physical properties as follows: granularity, geometric shapes and size of sawdust chips. The shape, dimensions and amount of chips depend on the form, physical and mechanical properties of the sawed wood (Beljo Lučić et al. 2009; Dzurenda et al. 2009; Dzurenda et al. 2010; Dzurenda and Orlowski 2010, 2011, 2011 a, Fujimoto et al. 2011), as well as on the shape, dimensions, and sharpness of the cutting blade, technical and technological conditions of the sawing process (Dzurenda et al. 2006; Hlášková et al. 2016; Paľubicki and Rogoziński 2016). On the contrary, Marková et al. (2018) examined granularity and size of sawdust chips not from the point of view of the further technological processes, however, they were interested in thermal parameters of beech wood dust.

Sawdust is characterized as poly-dispersion bulk material consisting of coarse and medium-coarse fractions (Hejma et al. 1981; Dzurenda 2009), i.e. bulk material with dimensions of grain over 0.3 mm, while the share of fine fractions with smaller dimensions of chips is not excluded. According to the classification parameters of bulk material described in STN 26 0070 standard, sawdust is classified as B-45UX, i.e. bulk material of fine granularity (0.5-3.5 mm), hygroscopic, low crisp and abrasive material with a tendency to crowd.

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The full-cell impregnation of pine wood (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) influenced the resistance values and the accuracy of moisture content measurements (Konopka et al., 2018). For that reason, the aim of this work is to analyze the effect of the impregnation treatment of pine wood on sawdust granularity during the sawing process conducted on the frame sawing machine PRW15–M.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

The material used in the experiments was pine wood (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) impregnated and not impregnated. The wood to be used in the impregnation experiments (wood blocks  $b = 50 \text{ mm} \times H_p = 50 \text{ mm} \times L_p = 500 \text{ mm}$ ) was initially dried in industrial conditions until the relative moisture content was near the FSP. Next, they were full-scale impregnated in an autoclave in the industrial conditions. The impregnation process lasted 120 min, and the level of retention was  $1.0 \text{ dm}^3/(\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{min})$ . The impregnation method is based on the technique that has been described in detail by Babiński (1992), called full-cell impregnation. The blocks were placed in the impregnation solution under atmospheric pressure. The first impregnation phase lasted 25 min in a vacuum of -0.8 bar. Thereafter, a pressure of 10 bar was maintained for 55 min. After a second impregnation phase when the pressure was reduced to atmospheric, the surplus of impregnation solution was removed from the autoclave. The final impregnation step, during of which the impregnation solution is sucked out of the lumens, was carried out in a vacuum of -0.8 bar and lasted 40 min (Konopka et al. 2018). A preservative KORASIT KS2 (Kurt Obermeier GmbH&Co KG, D) which is characterised as a water soluble, liquid, fixative, chromate and boron free wood preservative based on copper complex compounds and a highly effective quaternary ammonium compound, was applied. Concentrate and solution of Korasit KS2 have a deep blue colour. Nevertheless, impregnated wood takes on an olive green hue. The solution can be stained with Korasit® colour pastes. The concentration of the impregnate was 3.8 %.

The other blocks in the same dimensions ( $58 \text{ mm} \times 58 \text{ mm} \times 500 \text{ mm}$ ) were not impregnated.

### Machine tool and tools

Tests were performed on the frame sawing machine PRW15M (Fig. 1) with a hybrid dynamically balanced driving system and elliptical teeth trajectory movement (Wasielowski and Orłowski, 2002) at the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (GUT, PL). The machine settings were as follows: number of strokes of saw frame per min ( $n_F$ ), 685 spm; saw frame stroke ( $H_F$ ), 162 mm; number of saws in the gang ( $n$ ), 5; and average cutting speed ( $v_c$ ),  $3.69 \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . The saw blades were sharp, with stellite tipped teeth: overall set (kerf width) ( $S$ ), 2 mm; saw blade thickness ( $s$ ), 0.9 mm; free length of the saw blade ( $L_0$ ), 318 mm; tension stresses of saws in the gang ( $\sigma_N$ ), 300 MPa; blade width ( $b$ ), 30 mm; tooth pitch ( $P$ ), 13 mm; tool side rake ( $\gamma_f$ ),  $9^\circ$ ; and tool side clearance ( $\alpha_f$ ),  $14^\circ$ . The only varying cutting parameter was feed speed, which was applied at two levels:  $v_{f1} \approx 0.9 \text{ m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$  and  $v_{f2} \approx 1.72 \text{ m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ . This corresponds to a feed per tooth ( $f_z$ ) of  $\sim 0.105 \text{ mm}$  and  $\sim 0.2 \text{ mm}$ , respectively. Lamellae with thicknesses of  $5 \pm 0.2 \text{ mm}$  were obtained as a result of the re-sawing process. The actual value of the feed per tooth were computed on the basis of the sawing time taken from the plots of time changes of electrical power consumption (Fig.2). The mean value of feed per tooth for a sash gang saw is calculated as:

$$\bar{f}_z = \frac{1000 \cdot v_f \cdot P}{n_{RP} \cdot H_{RP}} \quad (1)$$

where: strokes number of the frame  $n_{RP} = 685$  1/min, stroke of the frame  $H_{RP} = 162$  mm,  $P = 13$  mm is a tooth pitch, and  $v_f$  in  $\text{m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$  is calculated as:

$$v_f = \frac{L_p}{60t_c} \quad (2)$$

where:  $L_p$  is length of the sample in m, and  $t_c$  is the real cutting time taken from the plot, e.g. Fig. 2.



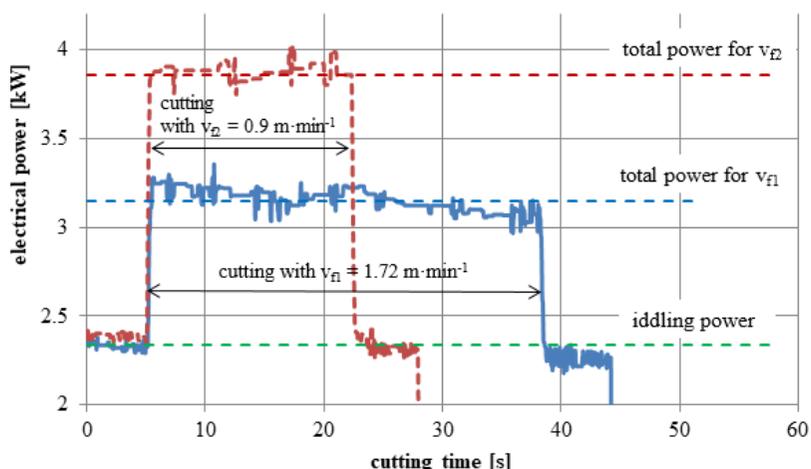
**Figure 1.** Narrow-kerf frame sawing machine (sash gang saw) PRW15–M

### Sawdust collection and sieve analyses

For granulometric analyses, samples of pine sawdust (natural, not impregnated) and impregnated pine sawdust were taken isokinetically from the exhaust pipe of a frame sawing machine PRW-15 in accordance with a standard ISO 9096.

The moisture content of both types of dust samples was  $MC = 10\%$ , and was determined by the weight method.

Sieve analysis was carried out on an automated vibratory screening machine Retsch AS 200 control; a set of control stainless steel sieves, diameter of sieve 200 mm, height 50 mm, diameter of sieve mesh 2 mm, 1 mm, 0.50 mm, 0.25 mm, 0.125 mm, 0.080 mm, 0.063 mm, and 0.032 mm. The residues on each sieves and bottom were weighed on a digital laboratory balance EP 200 (f. BOSCH) to an accuracy of 0.001 g. The sieving parameters were an amplitude 2 mm/(g), with an interval of 10 s, and a time of 20 min.



**Figure 2.** Time changes of electrical power consumption while sawing at two levels of feed speed  $v_{f1}$  and  $v_{f2}$  of impregnated samples

## RESULTS AND ANALYSES

In Table 1 the symbols of samples, values of feed speeds  $v_f$  and feed per teeth  $f_z$ , which were used in the tests, are presented. The results of the sieve analysis - size distribution of the dry chips of untreated pine sawdust and dry impregnated pine are given in Table 2.

**Table 1.** Symbols of samples, feeding parameters and types of raw material

Symbol	feed speed $v_f$	feed per tooth $f_z$	kind of raw material
	$\text{m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$	mm	
SOIM-10	0.901	0.1058	impregnated
SOIM-11	1.717	0.2052	impregnated
SONP-3	0.898	0.1055	not impregnated
SONP-4	1.719	0.2049	not impregnated

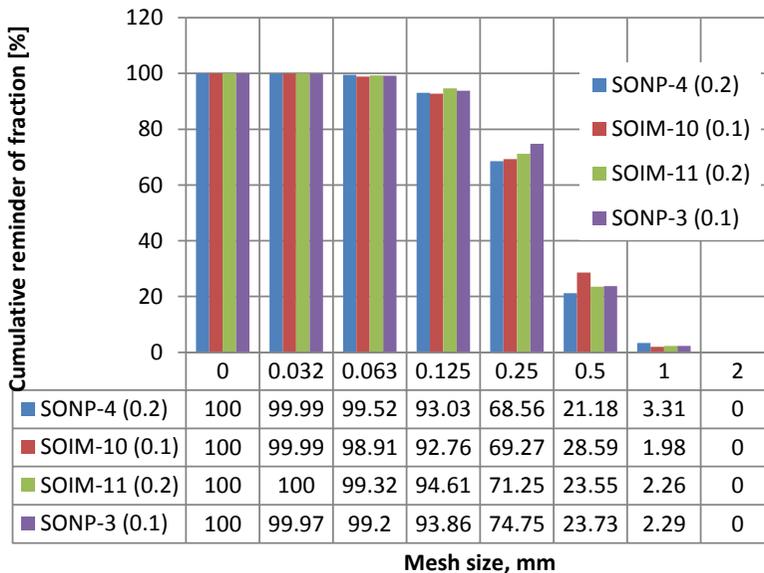
**Table 2.** Granulometric analysis of sawdust from unimpregnated and impregnated and pine wood

Measure of sieve mesh [mm]	Mark of fraction	Representation of fractions in dry pine wood [%]			
		pine not impregnated wood		pine impregnated wood	
		SONP-3	SONP-4	SOIM - 10	SOIM - 11
2.000	coarse	2.29	3.31	1.97	2.26
1.000		21.44	17.87	26.61	21.29
0.500	medium coarse	51.02	47.38	40.68	47.70
0.250		19.11	24.47	23.49	23.36
0.125	fine	5.34	6.47	6.15	4.71
0.063		0.77	0.47	1.08	0.68
0.032		0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00
< 0.032		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

The majority  $\approx 95\%$  of the chips produced are thick and the chip share of the coarse fraction in the particle size range 125 microns to 2 mm. The slight difference is in the fraction of the fine fraction with a particle size of 32 - 125  $\mu\text{m}$ . While the share of pine

wood sawdust of unimpregnated wood is between 0.48 and 0.8%, whereas of the impregnated wood pine wood is 0.68 - 1.1%.

Figure 2 presents the cumulative histogram residue granularity plots of sawdust obtained during the sawing process of not impregnated and impregnated pine wood.



**Figure 2.** Histograms of residue of sawdust while sawing on the sash gang saw PRW15M, where: a) not impregnated pine, b) impregnated pine. Legend: close to the samples symbols in parentheses values of feed per tooth are provided

The obtained results show that the impregnation process practically does not affect the sawdust grain size when sawing on the frame sawing machine PRW-15M in the examined feed rate range. A slightly higher proportion of fine fraction of pine wood impregnated wood does not affect the efficiency of separation in fabric filters and the technological use of sawdust, e.g. for the production of briquettes and pellets.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the carried out analyses, it can be concluded that:

- firstly, the sawdust of both the unimpregnated pine wood and impregnated pine wood, created in the sawing process on a frame sawing machine PRW15-M at a feed speed of  $v_f = 0.9-1.72 \text{ m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ , consists of  $\approx 95\%$  of the chips with a grain size within the range from 125  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2 mm;
- secondly, the slight difference is in the fraction of fine fraction with a particle size of 32 - 125  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- eventually, the obtained results revealed that the impregnation process practically does not affect the sawdust granularity when sawing on the sash gang saw PRW-15M in the examined feed rate range; does not affect the efficiency of separation in fabric filters and the technological use of sawdust, e.g. for the production of briquettes and pellets.

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