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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C08K 5/14, 5/09, 5/098		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/23826
			(43) International Publication Date: 8 September 1995 (08.09.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/02585		(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, ~~SG~~ , SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 1 March 1995 (01.03.95)			
(30) Priority Data: 08/204,783 2 March 1994 (02.03.94) US			
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9611299-0			
(54) Title: METHOD OF MODIFICATION OF BULK POLYMERS WITH METAL CATALYZED IONIC POLYMERIZATION			
(57) Abstract			
A method for property modification of bulk polymers, including polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), natural rubber and the like, by initially treating a short chain organic acid, having a carboxylic group (with dissociation constant between 10^{-2} to 10^{-6} cm⁻¹, and less than 8 carbons); with an oxide, peroxide, hydroxide or halogen compound of a Group IA, IIA or IIB metal, or the metal itself, and preferably a divalent alkaline earth metal, for forming a metal ligand or complete metal salt of the acid. The bulk polymers, are thoroughly mixed with the complex metal salts, such as in an extruder, and free radicals are introduced into the mixture, such as by means of addition of a highly oxidizing material, such as a peroxide, to functionalize the bulk polymer with ionic polymerization sites, with a resultant homopolymer formation between the organic metal salt anion and the bulk polymer, as catalyzed by the metal cation at such sites. The polymerization is a substantially non-cross linked ionic one resulting from the dissociation parameters and short chain length of the complex metal salt. The metal salt anion appears to fill in gaps in the bulk polymer but without cross-linking. Resultant homopolymer materials including those containing bulk polymers of PE, PP and PVC show improvement in flow rate, elongation and tensile strength over the original bulk polymer materials, and natural rubber behaves like a thermoplastic polymer.			

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