

PRODUCTION OF POLYMER EMULSIONS

ABSTRACT

Process for the production of an aqueous polymer emulsion which process comprises:

- a) preparing a low molecular weight polymer containing acid-functional groups using a free-radical polymerisation process which employs a free-radical initiator and, for the purpose of controlling molecular weight, a transition metal chelate complex, wherein said low molecular weight polymer has a number average molecular weight within the range of from 500 to 50,000;
- b) conducting an aqueous emulsion polymerisation process to form an aqueous emulsion of a hydrophobic polymer from at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer, wherein the low molecular weight polymer of step a) is introduced to the aqueous medium of said emulsion polymerisation process before the start of and/or during said emulsion polymerisation process and becomes dissolved or dispersed in said aqueous medium.

