Claims

[Claim 1]

A method for producing a rubber-like polymer comprising the steps of:

extrusion drying the rubber-like polymer by using an expansion-type extrusion dryer provided with a die having an opening at an outlet thereof; and

hot-air drying, successively to the extrusion drying, the rubber-like polymer by using a hot air dryer,

wherein a water content of the rubber-like polymer at an inlet of the expansion-type extrusion dryer is 6 to 25% by mass;

a die flow rate F/S obtained by dividing a treatment amount (F) of the rubber-like polymer in the expansion-type extrusion dryer by an opening area (S) of the die is 1 to 15 kg/hr/mm^2;

a die shape factor obtained by dividing a total edge length of the die at the outlet of the expansion-type extrusion dryer by an opening area of the die is ~~1.0~~1.3 to 4.0 mm^{-1}; ~~and~~

a diameter of a circle circumscribing the opening of the die concerned is 7mm or more; and

a water content of the rubber-like polymer at the outlet of the expansion-type extrusion dryer is 20 to 70%

based on the water content of the rubber-like polymer at the inlet of the expansion-type extrusion dryer.

[Claim 2]

The method for producing the rubber-like polymer according to claim 1, wherein the hot air dryer is a vibrating conveyor-type hot air dryer.

[Claim 3]

The method for producing the rubber-like polymer according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the die at the outlet of the expansion-type extrusion dryer has a rectangular shape or a shape formed by a combination of a plurality of rectangles.

[Claim 4]

The method for producing the rubber-like polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the die shape factor is ~~1.2~~1.3 to 3.0 mm^{-1}.

[Claim 5]

The method for producing the rubber-like polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 4, comprising as the steps preceding the step of extrusion drying the steps of:

desolventizing by removing a solvent by steam stripping from a solution of the rubber-like polymer; and

screening to obtain a water-containing rubber-like polymer from a slurry of the rubber-like polymer by separating from a stripping water.

[Claim 6]

The method for producing the rubber-like polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the