Claims

1. A process for determining the degree of branching of ~~modified~~ diene polymers ~~wherein~~ that have been modified such that the degree of crosslinking/branching of the ~~modified~~ diene polymers has been increased to form a modified diene polymer, comprising:

determining the Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 at 100°C) of the modified diene polymers,

treating the modified diene polymers with a transformation mixture, thereby forming further modified diene polymers, wherein the transformation mixture comprises a compound of general formula (I)

$$R^1\text{-}S\text{-}S\text{-}R^1$$

(I)

where

R^1 in either occurrence is the same or different and is selected from a group of

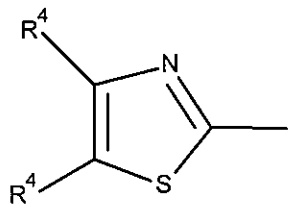
- moieties of formula (II)

$$C_6(R^2)_5\text{-}(C{=}O)\text{-}N(R^3)\text{-}C_6(R^2)_4\text{-}$$

(II)

where R^2 and R^3 in each occurrence is the same or different and they each represent a hydrogen radical, a linear or branched alkyl radical of 1 to 16 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a phenyl radical, a cycloalkyl radical of 5 to 8 carbon atoms;

- a moiety of formula (III)



(III)