

# Scanning Electron Microscope Configuration of Recycled Carbon Fiber Composites: Mini Review



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## Abstract

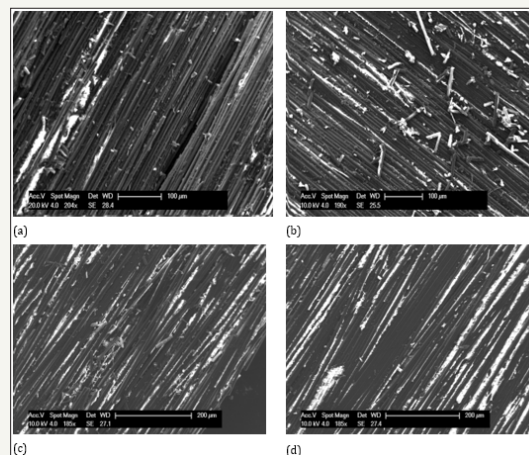
Carbon fiber composites (CFCs) were mechanically refined and classified the scanning electron microscope (SEM) configuration of untreated and heat-treated mechanically recycled carbon fiber epoxy and carbon fiber vinyl ester composite was examined by using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). SEM Results indicate that the main defects in the structure of recycled CFCs are broken fibers, fiber pull-out, fiber-matrix separation. Also Comparing SEM of untreated and heat-treated recycled CFC indicates that there is no significant difference between their micrographs.

**Keywords:** Carbon fiber composites; Recycling; Scanning electron microscope

## SEM Observation

The CFC trimmings and off-cuts were mechanically refined through two methods: hammer milling with a 25.4mm screen and shredding with 19mm wide teeth. The hammer-milled material was then sieved to different fractions as retained in 19.05mm (19.05), passed to 19.05mm and retained 12.7mm (12.7) passed 12.7mm and retained 4.7mm (4.7), and passed 4.7mm (<4.7), respectively. The materials processed by the shredder were screened with a 12.7mm screen and utilized as-is for the recycled composite process [1]. The SEM configurations of untreated and heat-treated

recycled carbon fiber composites (rCFCs) are given in Figure 1. rCFCs were heat-treated at 360 °C for 10min [2-4] based on the thermal properties of rCFCs. [5-8]. SEM configuration of CFCs shows different kinds of defects in the structure of composites including broken fibers, fiber pull-out, fiber-matrix separation. These defects maybe caused reaching of CFC to the end of life or can be created during recycling process [9-10]. Comparing SEM of untreated and heat treated rCFC indicates that there is no significant difference between their micrographs.



**Figure 1:** SEM configurations of rCFC under different conditions: (a) untreated Epoxy/CFC (b) heat-treated Epoxy/CFC (c) untreated VE/CFC (d) heat-treated VE/CFC.

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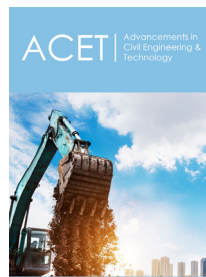
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