

Thesis Title	Preparation of Electrical Conductive Polycarbonate Composite for Bipolar Plates in PEM Fuel Cell
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ABSTRACT

This research aims to develop the lightweight and high performance polymer composite for bipolar plates in Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) by using polycarbonate as a matrix and graphite, expanded graphite, carbon black and carbon fibers as conductive fillers. Polycarbonate composite were prepared by dried mixing prior to melt blending on two-rolls mill. The composites were fabricated into sheets by compression molding. The electrical conductivity, mechanical properties, density, hydrogen gas permeation and morphologies of composites were investigated. This result indicated that polymer composite with 60 wt% of expanded graphite and 10 wt% of carbon black provided 37.21 S/cm of electrical conductivity, the values of flexural strength, tensile strength impact strength and density were 14.9 MPa, 3.5 MPa, 6.4 J/m and 1.3371 g/cm³, respectively. Moreover, the hydrogen gas permeability was 1.1 x 10⁻¹² cm³/cm².sec. Although the polycarbonate composites from this research did not meet the requirement of DOE target except hydrogen gas permeability and density; however, they offered the advantages of less expensive and lightweight when compared to the conventional graphite bipolar plates.