

DISCUSSION

Authors: Breuer, Dean

David Lide: Have you considered recommending specific equations to represent properties that are functions of one or more parameters?

Greg Dean (author's response): There is much scope for using functions to represent the dependence of property data on plastics upon important variables for that property. These functions might simply aid the storage and retrieval of data through interpolation or they may allow a more ambitious objective to be achieved of predicting values, for example by extrapolation, using data obtained from a very much reduced experimental programme. The accuracy of data generated by calculation will be uncertain unless functions and analysis procedures are employed whose validity has been established by scientific research for a particular type of polymer or range of the variables. Defining appropriate functions and how the magnitude of the parameters contained in them should be determined for each material is thus not straightforward. This must be established through international collaborative research and be recorded in international standards or codes. The authors believe that the time is now right to initiate the enabling effort that will lead to the development of these standards for data analysis for plastics.