

Assessment of digester additives in Sappi R&D

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ABSTRACT

Surfactant based digester additives have the potential to boost pulp yield by improving pulping uniformity leading to reduced reject rates, higher pulp yield and more uniform pulp properties with an increased stability of both process and pulp quality. This is achieved by improving the wettability of the wood surface which enables a more efficient cooking liquor penetration into the wood chip.

Over the past years the application of surfactants

was investigated intensively at the Sappi Technology Centre in Pretoria. This paper presents and discusses the benefits of using a sound experimental design together with specialised equipment to accurately screen and assess the relative performance of pulping additives for various chemical pulping processes. In a selected case study the Technology Centre's method of identifying and evaluating a suitable product in a step-by-step laboratory approach, as well as introducing this product to mill scale application, is presented.
