

Preparazione materie prime ormatura di piastrelle ceramiche Anner Vari PREPARATION OF RAW MATERIALS AND SHAPING OF CERAMIC TILES

## INTRODUCTION: RAW MATERIALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERAMIC TILES Mariano Paganelli

## FIRST PART: RAW MATERIALS PREPARATION

## **Chapter 1. BODY FORMULATION AND GRINDING: GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- 1. General
- 2. Body formulation
- 3. Grinding: general principles
  - 3.0 General
    - 3.1 Specific surface area
    - 3.2 The reason for grinding
    - 3.3 Determining the threshold dimension
    - 3.4 Principles
      - a) Impact
      - b) Crushing
      - c) Shearing
      - d) Chemical/physical action
    - 3.5 Grinding work

## Chapter 2. PRE-GRINDING

- 1. Raw materials storage
  - 1.1 Variability of raw materials
  - 1.2 Ageing
  - 1.3 First screening
- 2. First grinding
  - 2.1 Purpose
    - 2.2 Jaw crusher
    - 2.3 Cone crusher
    - 2.4 Roll crusher
    - 2.5 Pan mill
    - 2.6 Blade type lump crusher
- 3. Mixing

## Chapter 3. DRY GRINDING

- 1. The conventional process
  - 1.1 Pendular mill
  - 1.2 Vertical roller mill
  - 1.3 Rotating pin mill
  - 1.4 Hammer mill
  - 1.5 Peg mill
  - 1.6 Projection mill
  - 1.7 Evaluations of dry grinding mills
- 2. Screening
- 3. Further treatments
- 4. Some dry process developments
  - 4.1 Granulation of dry ground product
  - 4.2 Separate grinding
- 5. Final points

## **Chapter 4. WET GRINDING**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Discontinuous mills
  - 2.1 Description
    - 2.2 Speed of rotation
    - 2.3 Grinding action
    - 2.4 Grinding media
    - 2.5 Degree of filling
    - 2.6 The internal mill lining
    - 2.7 Slip
- 3. Continuous processes
  - 3.1 Continuous wet grinding
  - 3.2 Conical mill
- 4. Developments in wet grinding
  - 4.1 Separate grinding
  - 4.2 Variable speed of rotation
- 5. Final observations
- 6. Focus: Microsphere mills for bodies

## **Chapter 5. SPRAY-DRYING**

- 1. Spray-drying
- 2. Fluid dynamics
  - 2.1 The movement of the slip
  - 2.2 Formation of granules
  - 2.3 Powder separation
- 3. Powder
- 4. Settings
- 5. Energy recovery

## **Chapter 6. POWDER FINISHING AND IRON REMOVAL**

- 1. Body colouring
- 2. Re-granulation
  - 2.1 Principle
    - a) Dry re-granulation
    - b) Dry re-granulation by mechanical action
    - c) Wet re-granulation

2.2 Granulator

3. Iron removal

### **Chapter 7. DESCRIPTION OF PARTICLES AND SCREENING**

- 1. Shape of particles
- 2. Screening
  - 2.1 Sieve screening
  - 2.2 Air separators
    - 2.2.1 Static separators
    - 2.2.2 Dynamic separators
    - 2.2.3 Cyclones
  - 2.3 Filters
- 3. Particle size distribution curves
  - 3.1 Particle size distribution
  - 3.2 Cumulative particle size curve
  - 3.3 Influence of the duration of grinding
  - 3.4 Ideal cumulative particle size distribution curve
  - 3.5 Control of particle size distribution

## Chapter 8. POWDER STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

- 1. Storage in silos
- 2. Extraction from silos / conveyor feeding
- 3. Feeding
  - 3.1 Counterweight feeder
  - 3.2 Blade type feeder
  - 3.3 Roller feeder
  - 3.4 Screw feeders
  - 3.5 Weighing belt feeders
  - 3.6 Observations
- 4. Powder transport
  - 4.1 Powder segregation
    - 4.2 Flowability
    - 4.3 Abrasion
- 5. Belt conveying
  - 5.1 Conveyor belts
    - 5.2 Loading devices
    - 5.3 Unloading devices
- 6. Pneumatic transport
  - 6.1 Principles
  - 6.2 Main applications in the ceramic industry
- 7. Transport in silos
- 8. Transport in bags

## Chapter 9. BODY DEFECTS

- 1. Defects in raw materials
- 2. Preparation defects
  - 2.1 Insufficient or excessive grinding
  - 2.2 Incorrect batching
  - 2.3 Non-uniform powder
  - 2.4 Inadequate or excessively high moisture content
  - 2.5 Incorrect particle shapes
  - 2.6 Presence of lumps
  - 2.7 Powder contamination

- 3. Defects related to the production cycle
  - 3.1 Blockage of conveyor systems
  - 3.2 Losses of powder during transport
  - 3.3 Powder segregation
  - 3.4 Loss of flowability (crushing of particles)
  - 3.5 Abrasion

## **Chapter 10. CHECKS IN THE BODY PREPARATION PROCESS**

- 1. Raw material checks
- 2. Grinding checks
  - 2.1 Particle size distribution check
  - 2.2 Residue check
  - 2.3 Apparent density check
  - 2.4 Particle shape check
- 3. Body check
  - 3.1 Moisture check
  - 3.2 Flowability check
  - 3.3 Pressing test

## APPENDICES

#### Appendix A. Specific surface area

#### Appendix B. Comparison between the various grinding processes

#### Appendix C. Consumptions and energy savings

- 1. Grinding
  - 1.1 Dry grinding
  - 1.2 Wet grinding
  - 1.3 Savings
- 2. Spray-drying
  - 2.1 Consumptions
  - 2.2 Heat loss to environment
  - 2.3 Heat recovery
- 3. Operation
  - 3.1 Feed continuity
  - 3.2 Change of article
  - 3.3 Start-up/shutdown
  - 3.4 Maintenance
- 4. Cogeneration
  - 4.1 Principle
  - 4.2 Energy balance of a cogeneration plant

#### Appendix D. Principles of rheology

#### Appendix E. Spray-drying: droplet fall times

#### Appendix F. The grinding process as a function of time: simplified theoretic analysis

# **SECOND PART: FORMING**

## **Chapter 1. FORMING**

- 1. General
  - 1.1 Wet forming
- 2. Extrusion
  - 2.1 Extrusion dies
  - 2.2 Typical defects
- 3. Forming by extrusion and pressing (moulding)
- 4. Forming by pressing of wet body (moulding)

## **Chapter 2. PRESSING**

- 1. Density, apparent density, compactness
- 2. Press power and specific pressure
- 3. Main product parameters that depend on pressing
- 1.1 Effects of specific pressure on density
- 1.2 Effects of specific pressure on shrinkage
- 1.3 Influence of moisture content of powders
- 1.4 Specific pressure: optimal value
- 4. Powder compression and variability of specific pressure
- 5. Pressing cycle
- 6. Stages of pressing action
  - 6.1 Cavity filling
    - 6.1.1 Movement of carriage
    - 6.1.2 Filling
    - 6.1.3 Punch descent
  - 6.2 First pressing
  - 6.3 Air elimination
  - 6.4 Second pressing
  - 6.5 Tile demoulding
- 7. Complementary operations
  - 7.1 Carriage filling
  - 7.2 Moulding cleaning
  - 7.3 Fettling

## Chapter 3. MOULDS

1. Re-entering punch mould

- 1 Base plate
- 2 Mould punch or ejector block
- 3 Lower punches
- 4 Die box
- 5 Upper punch
- 2. Mirror mould
- 3. Transfer mould
- 4 Isostatic punches

## **Chapter 4. UNFIRED PRODUCT CHECKS**

- 1. General
- 2. Weight check
- 3. Thickness check
- 4. Determination of breaking load
- 5. Determination of permeability
  - 5.1 Determination of pore distribution
- 6. Durometer
- 7. Visual checks
- 8. Checking expansion after pressing
- 9. Checking moisture content of powder

## **Chapter 5. MOST COMMON DEFECTS**

- 1. Defects due to preparation errors
- 2. Defects recognisable on unfired product
  - 2.1 Lamination
  - 2.2 Non-uniform compactness (density)
  - 2.3 Excessive expansion
  - 2.4 Cracks/fractures
  - 2.5 Fettle
- 3. Defects recognisable on fired product
  - 3.1 Extraction cracks
  - 3.2 Lamination
  - 3.3 Black core
  - 3.4 Dimensional defects
  - 3.5 Stains
- 4. Problems
  - 4.1 Fall of fettle
  - 4.2 Dirt on mould

## **Chapter 6. SPECIAL APPLICATIONS**

- 1. Pressing of pieces of non-uniform thickness
  - 1.1 Trim pieces (bullnose, steps, corners, etc.)
- 2. Relief
- 3. Double filling
- 4. Advanced aesthetic effects obtained at the press
  - 4.1 Through-body decoration (entire thickness of tile)
  - 4.2 Surface thickness decoration
  - 4.3 Decal decoration
  - 4.4 Surface decoration / glazing (decoration pressing)
- 5. Forming by mechanical action
  - 5.1 Shaping of steps

## **Chapter 7. THE MACHINES**

- 1. The hydraulic press
  - 1.1 Press body or frame
  - 1.2 Pressing unit
  - 1.3 Demoulding unit
  - 1.4 Hydraulic power unit
  - 1.5 Electrical command and control panel

- 2. Powder feeding carriage
- 3. Auxiliary operations
  - 3.1 Extraction from press
  - 3.2 Removing fettle
  - 3.3 Brushing
  - 3.4 Overturning
  - 3.5 Press collector

#### **Chapter 8. DEVELOPMENT IN THE CERAMIC SECTOR**

#### APPENDICES

Appendix G. Cavity filling by carriage

- a) Gravity filling by simple feeder
- b) Gravity filling by long feeder carriage
- c) Vacuum filling by long feeder carriage
- Forces acting on powder during movement of carriage

Appendix H. Distribution of internal stresses during pressing

Appendix I. Pores and degassing

#### Tables

Multiples and sub-multiples Maximum inclinations for conveyor belts Coefficients of friction on steel Coefficients of internal friction and angles of rest