

Temasek Defence Systems Institute

A REVIEW ON ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HALOGENATED SALTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PYROTECHNICS ST Engineering

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MSc in Explosive Ordnance Engineering

Can we create an eco-friendly pyrotechnics?

Traditional Red Flare

Eco-Friendly Red Flare

Thermal

Analysis

Role	Ingredient		%wt	Role	Ingredient	%wt
Plasticizer	Paraformaldehyde		1%	Plasticizer	Paraformaldehyde	1%
Fuel	Carbon		2%	Fuel	Carbon	1%
Chlorine Donor	Cereclor 70	<u> </u>	6%	Fuel	Magnesium/Aluminium 50:50	5%
Binder	Resin & Paraffin		14%	Binder	Resin & Paraffin	7%
Colorant	Strontium Oxalate		14%	Colorant & Oxidizer	Lithium Iodate	86%
Oxidizer	Potassium Perchlorate	<u>!</u>	63%			

Small Scale

Hazard Test

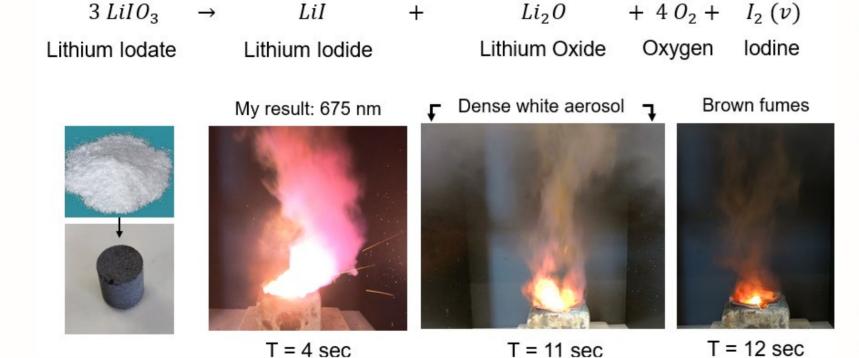
Formulating

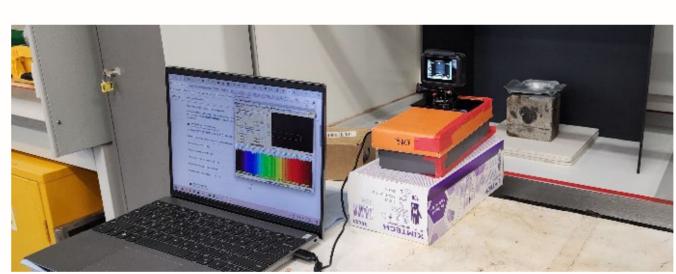
Literature

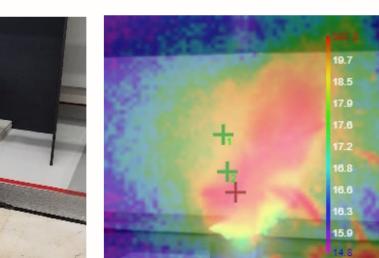
Review

Assumed Decomposition Mechanism [11]:









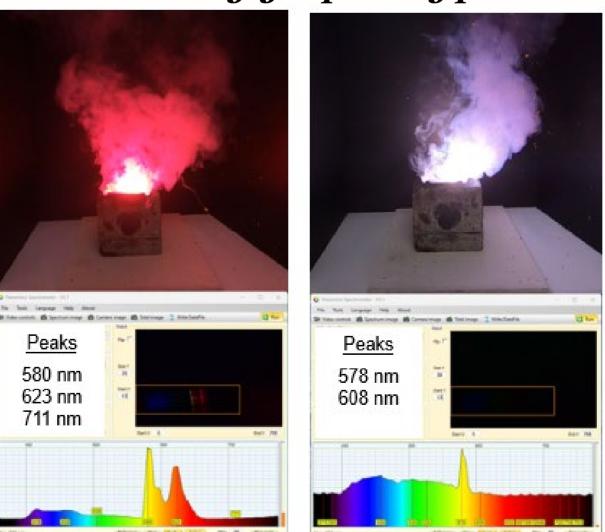
Manufacture

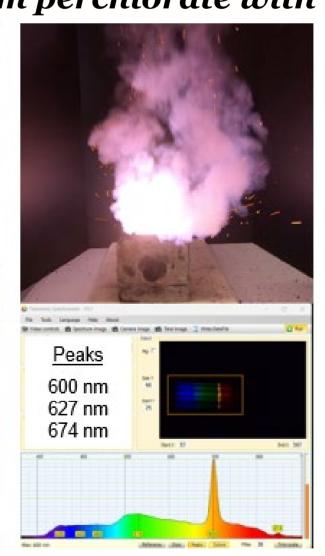


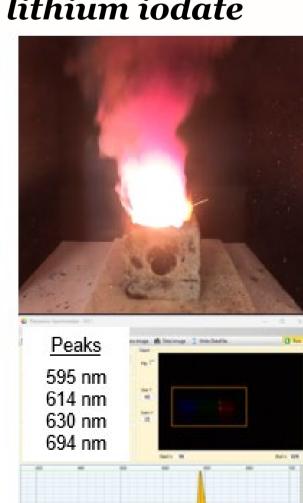
Spectral

Analysis

Increasingly replacing potassium perchlorate with lithium iodate







Conclusion

Lithium Iodate and Calcium Iodate-based flares can achieve high spectral purity without chlorine.

Safety

Assessment

Fuel-rich mixture is required to achieve stable combustion and avoid strobing effect.

- Traditional Perchlorate-based pyrotechnics can cause thyroid disruption through soil and water contamination
- However, eco-friendly flares are more expensive as traditional perchlorate-based flares.

Future Work

- Safety and life-cycle assessment degradative ageing problem with metal iodate flares
- Formulation Optimization Introducing energetic iodate salt = aluminium iodate hexahydrate $Al(H_2O)_6(IO_3)_3(HIO_3)_2$

References:

- 1. Steinhauser, G., & Klapötke, T. (2008). "Green" Pyrotechnics: A Chemists' Challenge. Angewandte Chemie International Edition, 47(18), 3330-3347. doi:https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.200704510
- 2. https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240703-how-4-july-fireworks-pollute-the-air-and-might-damage-your-health



Yes, We Can!