Leachability and strength of kaolin stabilized with cement and rubber

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ABSTRACT

Yearly, the disposal of used tyres is a major environmental problem for countries all over the world. This causes environmental hazards such as uncontrolled fire, consume landfill space, breeding ground for mosquitoes and contaminating the soil and vegetation. Hence, urgent steps were identified to produce new methods of recycling the waste tyres to solve this hazard. This study reviews the feasibility of using waste tyres in the form of rubber chips with cement to stabilize soft clay and the effect to the environment. The focus of this study was mainly the strength and leachability characteristics of kaolin as base clay, admixed with cement as the binder and rubber chips as an additive. Leaching test is used to evaluate the performance of cementitious materials for stabilization and solidification (S & S) of hazardous materials such as waste or contaminated soil. In this study, cylindrical stabilized clay specimens were prepared with various rubber chips contents and cement, and then aged for 28 days. Cylindrical specimens were then subjected to unconfined compressive strength test (using Geocomp LoadTrac II) and the specimens were later dried in oven at 105° before tested for leaching tests. These leaching methods are Acid Neutralization Capacity Test (ANC) and Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP). The solidified samples were checked on six different heavy metals, namely copper, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, zinc and plumbum. Analysis was carried out by relating the effects of 0, 2 or 4 % cement as well as 0, 5, 10 and 15 % rubber chips addition to the base clay and its leachability. As observed, the curing of specimen for 28 days was in a range of 66.24 to 249.4 kPa. Specimen with 4 % cement is able to produce ANC9 of about 0.13 meq HNO3/g specimen. However specimen with 0 % and 2 % cement for different rubberchips content shows that the specimen do not have the capacity to neutralize acid at pH 9. Therefore, more cement (> 4 %) is needed to achieve ANC9. SPLP results showed that all six different heavy metals tested do not exceed the approved limit for drinking water by World Health Organization (WHO), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Ministry of Health in Malaysia.

Keywords: Kaolin; Cement; Rubber Chips; Stabilized Clays; Leachability

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Malaysia is one of the largest producers of rubber and as a result produces million tonnes of rubber waste from the rubber-based industries each year. According to Summary of Monthly Rubber Statistics Malaysia November 2010, production of natural rubber (NR) is 73,100 tonnes. The domestic consumption was recorded as 35,003 tonnes. Comparing year-on-year, domestic consumption had declined to about 12.9 %. The largest NR consuming industry was the rubber gloves (66.5 %) followed by rubber thread (14.8 %) and tyre and tubes (6.8 %). The total consumption for these three industries combined was 30,862 tonnes or 88.1 % of total NR consumption in the country. These numbers keep on increasing every year with the increase of vehicles, as do the future problems relating to waste tyres [1].

Cement-based solidification/stabilization (S/S) is an established technique utilized in treatment of wastes in developed countries. In fact S/S-related processes such as chemical stabilization has been identified as the best demonstrated available technology (BDAT) for a variety of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) non-wastewater wastes [2]. Solidification techniques by using cement, lime, or other agents are sometimes used to stabilize the soft soil to attain the suitable properties for the geotechnical applications. Chemical stabilization is generally defined as a chemical alteration technique of reducing the mobility as well as solubility of contaminants present in soil in order to convert that particular soil into chemically inert form [3].

[4] reported that the ordinary Portland cement normally contains chromium (Cr) in the range of 30 to 100 mg/kg. The chromium is originally included in raw materials of cement. When these raw materials are sintered in the cement, they are oxidized to hexavalent chromium. From the leaching tests, a considerable mass of Cr\(^{6+}\) was detected from the cements supplied by several Japanese cement manufacturers. This means that careful attention must be taken to prevent the environmental risk when cement is used. The Japanese environmental standard of the Cr\(^{6+}\) leachate is below 0.05 mg/L, and hexavalent chromium leaching from cement itself may have a high risk to contaminate the surrounding environment, i.e. groundwater. Leaching tests for the cement-stabilized soils were also conducted to determine the level of contamination risk by cement stabilized materials. Cr\(^{6+}\) leachate from the cement-stabilized soil were significant, and it depends on the type of soils to be treated. The additive content of cement, of course, affected the leachate volume.

Arsenic (As) is known to be dangerous to human’s health. Hence, USEPA had reduced the maximum As contamination level in drinking water from 0.05 mg/L to 0.01 mg/L starting from 2006 [5-6]. In Malaysia, [7] stated that Standard A for As in domestic waste effluent at 0.05 mg/L.

S/S research for waste or material containing cadmium (Cd) has been done by many past researchers [8-9]. For example, [9] had studied the effect of curing days to cement matrix and leaching of Cd. It was observed that the concentration for Cd was lower in extract of Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) when the curing days was short and the concentration increased when the curing days increased to more than 1 year. This phenomenon might be caused by different pH.
S/S research on copper (Cu) with cement or lime was done by a few researchers [10-11]. For example, [10] reported that Cu can bind the cement using agglomerate agent, natrium methasilicate, Na$_2$SiO$_3$.9H$_2$O.

Lead (Pb) concentration in precipitation solution after S/S of cement was influenced by the pH of the solution [9; 12]. Generally the concentration of Pb in the leaching solution will reduced with the increment of pH. It is difficult to detect when the pH is in between 9 to 11 due to the formation of insoluble hydroxide, however it can be detected at pH 12 because the formation of complex amphoteric hydroxide.

[8] research using cement and binders; it was found that the concentration of zinc (Zn) in leaching solution at larger pH range is similar to the estimation done from calculation of dilution of ion hydroxide.

In this study, the synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP), EPA Method 1312, is used to evaluate the potential for leaching of metals into ground and surface waters, and provides an assessment of metal mobility under actual field conditions, i.e. what happens when it rains (or snows) [13]. While acid neutralization capacity (ANC) test is used to determine the buffering capacity of S/S waste forms [14].

2.0 MATERIALS

2.1 Kaolin

Kaolin was used in this project which formed the base clay having controlled homogeneous properties. It was used to ensure that the moisture content and density were controlled as it has a consistent size range. It is whitish in colour, soft and fine grained. The kaolin used was obtained from Kaolin Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. The particle size distribution of kaolin used is shown in Figure 1. Its uniformity coefficient, $C_u$ is 2 and coefficient of gradation, $C_c$ is 0.96.

2.2 Rubber chips (RC)

Rubber chips used in this study were retrieved from discarded used truck tyres by crushing and removal of the textiles and metal fibers. The rubber chips sizes are between 2 to 5 mm in average (refer to Figure 1). It was obtained from Yong Fong Rubber Industries Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia which produces reclaimed rubber such as rubber powder, rubber chips and rubber shreds. Rubber chips are incompressible elastic material, with Poisson’s ratio of 0.5 and elastic modulus is about 4 to 6 MPa (average at 0 % to 15 % strains) [15]. Rubber chips were chosen in this study because it is the cheapest rubber waste compared to other reclaimed rubbers (i.e. rubber powder is RM 1/kg, rubber chips is RM 0.15/kg and rubber shreds is RM 0.90/kg).
2.3 Ordinary Portland cement

Ordinary Portland cement is a widely used stabilizer whether on its own or admixed with other additives [16]. The cement was first oven-dried at 105°C for 24 hours before being stored in airtight containers to maintain the consistency of cement used in the preparation of specimens.

3.0 TEST PROGRAMME

2.3 Specimen preparation

The test specimens were prepared by varying the proportion of ordinary Portland cement and then a known proportion of rubber chips were added to kaolin paste of known water content (i.e. \( w = 50\% \)). Analysis was carried out for geotechnical properties by relating the effects of 0, 2 and 4 % cement and 0, 5, 10 and 15 % rubber chips additions, and after a 28 days curing period. These aforementioned percentages of additives were calculated based on dry mass of the kaolin.

The mixture was mixed thoroughly in a mechanical mixer and then compacted in a split mould to form specimens of 38 mm in diameter and 76 mm in height. A specially designed miniature hand compacting tool was used to compact the mixture in 4 layers, 50 blows each [17]. The extruded specimens were then wrapped in cling film and stored for 28 days prior to testing. Each specimen mix was prepared in pairs to ensure uniformity of the specimen preparation method and test procedures.

2.3 Laboratory Testing

(a) Oxide element analysis

Analysis of the main element oxides of the kaolin, cement and rubber chips were done using the X-ray fluorescence (XRF) method as shown in Table 1. From this result, it can be related to the leaching of the heavy metal from SPLP test. The main oxide element in
kaolin is SiO$_2$ and Al$_2$O$_3$ with 51.91 and 41.83 % respectively. While for cement and rubber chips, the main oxide elements were CaO, SiO$_2$ and Al$_2$O$_3$. Rubber chips alone contained ZnO and PbO which is 6.96 and 0.87 % respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxide Elements</th>
<th>Concentration (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaolin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al$_2$O$_3$</td>
<td>41.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe$_2$O$_3$</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PbO</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiO$_2$</td>
<td>51.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO$_3$</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the maximum concentration of the six contaminants studied in this paper according to standards regulated by USEPA, World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health Malaysia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>WHO Standard for clean water (mg/l)</th>
<th>USEPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (mg/l)</th>
<th>Water Quality Standards (Malaysia) (mg/l)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic (As)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium (Cd)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium (Cr)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (Cu)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (Pb)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc (Zn)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) which is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are enforceable standards by USEPA.

(b) Unconfined Compression Test

The unconfined compressive strength (UCS) test was conducted according to BS1377-7:1990 [18]. The specimens were extruded from the moulds, levelled, measured for length and diameter, weighed and subjected to uniaxial compression test (UCT) at a constant rate of strain of 1% per minute. Care was taken to ensure that both ends of the specimen were as flat as possible to minimize bedding error during tests, especially with the stiffer specimens. Deformation was measured by a frame-mounted displacement transducer (LVDT) and the load measured by a frame-mounted load transducer.

Specimen tested for UCS will be collected and dried in the oven at 105° for 24 hours before being crushed to pass through a 1 mm sieve prior for SPLP and ANC testing.
(c) **Acid Neutralization Capacity (ANC)**

The applied ANC (WTC B11 1991) is inspired from the European pre-standard ‘Influence of pH on leaching with initial acid/base addition’. The aim of this test is to study the influence of pH on the leachability of inorganic constituents from a waste material by addition of predetermined amounts of acid or base to reach desired end pH values in apparent steady state condition [19].

The pH-dependent solubilization of the various polluting species has an important effect on the leaching behavior of the material. The specimen solubility according to the pH is carried out on finely crushed materials in order to rapidly reach solid/liquid steady state conditions. 5 g of finely crushed material (grain size less than 150 μm (ASTM No. 100) is in contact with a leachant volume at a determined pH. In this study, tests were done according to Schedule 1 (from 0 to 4 meq/g) [20]. The extraction is performed in bottle containers and liquid-solid separation is accomplished by centrifuging. Cement-rubberchips specimens were divided into 11 sub-specimens each, which were placed in containers with an increased amount of nitric acid 2 N and deionized water-to-solid ratio 6:1. The tubes were then rotated end over end for 48 hours before centrifuging (6000 rpm for 10 minutes) and measured the extract pH using a pH meter.

(d) **Synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP)**

Scientists and engineers often rely on results from the synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP) to assess the risk of groundwater contamination posed by the land application of granular solid wastes. The concentrations of pollutants in SPLP leachate can be measured and compared to groundwater quality criteria to determine if groundwater contamination is likely. These results are applied, however, inconsistently among regulatory agencies because of uncertainty over whether the SPLP leachate concentrations represent the actual pore water concentrations expected in the waste, or whether they represent diluted concentrations as might be expected in an underlying aquifer. Depending on the waste in question, the SPLP results can represent either condition [21]. In this study, research was conducted to examine the use of the SPLP for assessing risk to groundwater.

The application of a dilution factor to the SPLP concentrations was found to underestimate possible risk in most cases. Comparing the SPLP directly to water quality limits was found to be conservative in most situations; several observations were made, however, where the SPLP underestimated pore water concentrations. The use of a total pollutant concentration (mg/kg) in conjunction with a SPLP concentration (mg/L) to estimate a pore water concentration was found unreliable; this method underestimated the measured pore water concentrations [21].

Synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP): SPLP Method 1312 [22] is intended to simulate precipitation, acid rain. It is considered that in a natural environment the acid rain would apply a worst-case scenario to the waste during the practice of disposal. Two fluid (aqueous solution of sulfuric and nitric acids) were used in this test. Primary extraction fluid is slightly acidic at pH 4.20 reflecting the air pollution impacts of heavy industrialization and coal utilization. The other extraction fluid with pH 5.00 is also used for places with less industrialization and smaller population densities. The SPLP extraction fluid used in this study had a pH of 4.20.
For SPLP test, 1 g of crushed specimens which passed a 1 mm sieve was placed in a bottle container prior to addition of leaching solution nitric/sulfuric acid (pH 4.20) to provide a ratio of 20:1 mass ratio of leachant to solidified specimens. The containers were then agitated using a rotating extractor at 30 rpm for 18 hours. Leachate pH was measured at the end of the extraction period. The filtrate was then acidified with nitric acid to pH < 2 and stored under refrigeration (< 4°C) prior to heavy metal analysis by using the ELAN 9000 Perkin Elmer Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

2.3 Oxide content

The results of the XRF were summarized in Table 3 with 0, 2 and 4 % cement content and 0, 5, 10 and 15 % rubber chips. It shows that the material contains a large amount of silicates and aluminates. The content of CaO, Fe₂O₃ and SO₃ increased significantly when more cement is added. ZnO also have a slight increment when more rubber chips were added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxide Elements</th>
<th>K2C0R</th>
<th>K4C0R</th>
<th>K0C5R</th>
<th>K2C5R</th>
<th>K4C5R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al₂O₃</td>
<td>41.09</td>
<td>40.49</td>
<td>41.89</td>
<td>40.94</td>
<td>40.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₂O₃</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PbO</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiO₂</td>
<td>51.19</td>
<td>50.38</td>
<td>51.78</td>
<td>51.06</td>
<td>50.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO₃</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxide Elements</th>
<th>K0C10R</th>
<th>K2C10R</th>
<th>K4C10R</th>
<th>K0C15R</th>
<th>K2C15R</th>
<th>K4C15R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al₂O₃</td>
<td>41.46</td>
<td>41.04</td>
<td>39.20</td>
<td>40.32</td>
<td>39.76</td>
<td>39.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₂O₃</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PbO</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiO₂</td>
<td>51.77</td>
<td>50.83</td>
<td>51.24</td>
<td>53.07</td>
<td>52.20</td>
<td>51.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO₃</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Strength development of cement-rubberchip

The UCS values for the cement-rubberchips specimen shows the rate at which hydration reactions took place with different cement and rubberchips content.

Table 4 shows the UCS for all the cement-rubberchips specimens. As observed, the curing of specimen for 28 days was in a range of 66.24 to 249.4 kPa. Overall, higher UCS values were obtained when higher amount of cement was used for solidification process. This effect was attributed to the amount of tricalcium silicate and dicalcium silicate
(predominant elements in cement) increased in the stabilized soil enabling more production of tobermorite gel or calcium-silicate-hydrate (CSH) [23].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>UCS (kPa) 28 days curing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K0c0R</td>
<td>76.791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2c0R</td>
<td>130.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4c0R</td>
<td>249.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0c5R</td>
<td>67.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2c5R</td>
<td>145.990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4c5R</td>
<td>227.680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0c10R</td>
<td>66.238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2c10R</td>
<td>152.960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4c10R</td>
<td>176.680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0c15R</td>
<td>68.953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2c15R</td>
<td>136.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4c15R</td>
<td>229.900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Leachability of the metals

Leaching of heavy metals is the main reason why the waste or S/S products should be managed as a hazardous waste. The results show that the concentrations of the heavy metals are much lower than the pollution limits stipulated by WHO, USEPA and Ministry of Health Malaysia. This justifies the acceptability of cement-rubberchip stabilized kaolin for reuse in stabilization works, where leaching of the heavy metals is likely to be substantially reduced by the binding effects of the cementitious reaction.

(a) ANC analysis

ANC test was done to study the capacity of cement- rubberchips to stabilize kaolin and to assess pH decline when the specimen was titrated with nitric acid. The capacity of acid to neutralize for each specimen can be observed by plotting pH against the quantity of acid added to the specimen in miliequivalent acid per 1 g of dried specimen as shown in (Fig. 2-5).

The ANC test is used to determine the buffering capacity of the S/S products. The higher buffering capacity of the specimen increases the possibility of maintaining alkaline conditions and minimizing leaching [14]. [24] proposed that the S/S product should have an acid neutralization capacity greater than 1 eq/kg, before reaching pH 9 in order to be landfilled at a segregated landfill. They also proposed the ANC to be greater than 3 eq/kg for a sanitary landfill, since the S/S product would be exposed to more acidic conditions in a sanitary landfill.

It can be seen from the figures that incorporation of rubberchips and cement considerably decreased the ANC of the stabilised kaolin. The ANC of the S/S products were found to be lower than 1 meq/g, implying that the buffering capacity of all the specimens would be insufficient for the S/S products to be disposed of at a segregated landfill in the long term.
Specimen with 4 % cement is able to produce ANC₉ of about 0.13 meq HNO₃/g specimen. While for specimen with 0 % and 2 % cement for different rubberchips content shows that the specimen do not have the capacity to neutralize acid at pH 9. These figures can be observed having the same pattern showing that cement is more dominant than rubberchips to neutralize acid to pH 9. Therefore, more cement (> 4 %) is needed to achieve ANC₉.

Figure 2. Acid neutralization capacity of specimen at different cement content and 0 % RC

Figure 3. Acid neutralization capacity of specimen at different cement content and 5 % RC
(b) SPLP analysis

Synthetic rain was obtained using sulfuric acid and nitric acid with ratio of 60/40 (weight percentage) until the pH of the dilution reached is between 4.15 to 4.25. In this study, the average pH used to make synthetic rain is 4.20. According to [21], diluted SPLP will be compared with the standard for drinking water as shown in Table 2. Also, SPLP test was established by USEPA to filter dangerous waste.

SPLP contains inorganic acids (60% sulfuric and 40% nitric) simulating acid rain with pH = 4.2. This test would be appropriate for assessing metal loss from cement-rubberchips stabilized kaolin used in foundation or areas subject to acid rain. However, the stormwater precipitates into the material on the ground, where most soils buffer the pH - and bind many metals, or it falls into water with a natural buffering capacity that
reduces the pH. In order to evaluate aquatic risks, one must consider the transport and fate of contaminants [25].

SPLP extract liquid contained sulfate ion and nitric ion. According to [26], if a material contained sulfate and nitrate element, the concentration in the SPLP extract liquid will be reduced. This explains that when a minimum separation that will happen as a consequence of the same ions effect. Same ions effect means that the increasing of the same ions to a solution containing that particular ion and in a saturated state will caused the ion to precipitate to keep solubility product in the same extent [27].

Chemical reaction of nitrite acid and sulfuric acid with cement is also different. According to [28] the mechanism of corrosion of hardened paste of geopolymer cements at relatively high concentrations of sulfuric acid (pH≈1) consists of two subsequent steps. The first step starts by an ion exchange reaction between the charge compensating cations of the framework, i.e. sodium and calcium, and H⁺ or H3O⁺ ions from the solution along with an electrophilic attack by acid protons on polymeric Si–O–Al bonds. The electrophilic attack of acid protons results in the ejection of tetrahedral aluminum from the aluminosilicate framework. In the second step, the exchanged calcium ions diffusing toward the acid solution react with counter-diffusing sulfate anions resulting in the formation and deposition of gypsum crystals inside corroding layer. Deposition of gypsum crystals inside corroding matrix provides a protective effect inhibiting the total process of deterioration.

According to [29], SPLP is the method of choice when evaluating fate and transport of metals in a properly engineered waste land disposal facility from which municipal solid waste is excluded.

The relationship between the leachate pH and the heavy metals leached can be seen in Fig. 6-11. It can be inferred that the leachability of the metals largely depends on the pH of the extract solution. It may be considered that the S/S products may be disposed of at a segregated landfill without being exposed to the more acidic conditions of a municipal waste landfill.

However, the long-term leachability of contaminants should be considered before making such a decision. All the precipitation for the 6 elements tested does not exceed the approved limit for drinking water.

![Figure 6. Chromium leaching (mg/l) compared to specimens and pH](image-url)
Figure 6 shows the Cr leaching for all specimen concentration with leaching solution of SPLP were lower than 0.05 mg/L, the standards for drinking water for element Cr. pH shows a range from 5 to 13 which does not affect the leaching of Cr. An obvious trend for all specimens can be seen when cement content increases, Cr concentration also increases. This is due to cement containing Cr\(^{6+}\) as stated in [4].

![Cr leaching diagram]

**Figure 7.** Arsenic leaching (mg/l) compared to specimens and pH

Arsenic leaching compared to pH for each specimen can be seen in Figure 7. Specimen with 2 % cement gave higher As concentration compared to 0 % and 4 % cement. For 4 % cement with different rubber chips content, the concentration of As also increases significantly. This could be the leaching of As, at the formation of Ca–As precipitation [30]. Hence, Ca-As precipitation increases with Ca from cement. Arsenic is also a product mainly available in rubber chips.

![As leaching diagram]

**Figure 8.** Copper leaching (mg/l) compared to specimens and pH

Cu leaching from Figure 8 can be seen having the similar pattern as Cr leaching. For all specimen concentration with extract liquid of SPLP were lower than 1.0 mg/L, the standards for drinking water for element Cu. pH shows a range from 5 to 13 which does
not affect the leaching of Cu. [31] stated that Cu precipitation happened in the range of pH 5.4 to 12.0.

Figure 9. Cadmium leaching (mg/l) compared to specimens and pH

Cd leaching for all the specimens were shown in Figure 9. The Cd concentration was quite scattered and does not show any obvious pattern. This could be because Cd concentration is found in all the three materials (kaolin, cement and RC). According to [9], cadmium hydroxide will have low solubility at pH 11. In a short time of solidification, pH extract is between 10 to 12 for two mix design showing the low solubility for cadmium hydroxide.

Figure 10. Zinc leaching (mg/l) compared to specimens and pH

Figure 10 shows that precipitation of Zn is influenced by pH. [31] stated that precipitation of Zn is between 5.3 to 9, while from the above figure the pH range is from 5 to 11. This shows that Zn fixation in cement matrix is very strong to be leached out by SPLP liquid extractor.
Figure 11 shows the Pb leaching for the all the specimen. When more rubber chips were added, an increased of Pb concentration was seen. The pH effects the precipitation of Pb from 9 to 10 [32] or pH 6 to 9 [31]. As for this study, the pH ranges from 5 to 13 for all specimens.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions may be drawn from this study:

- The UCS for specimens after curing 28 days was in a range of 66.24 to 249.4 kPa. Overall, higher UCS values were obtained when higher amount of cement was used for stabilization process.
- Using the SPLP test method, all 6 heavy metals tested (Cr, As, Cu, Cd, Zn and Pb) does not exceed the approved limit for drinking water by WHO, USEPA and Ministry of Health in Malaysia. pH for SPLP ranges from 5 to 11.
- Specimen 4 % cement for different rubberchips content is able to produce ANC₉ of about 0.13 meq HNO₃/g specimen. While specimen with 0 % and 2 % cement shows that the specimen do not have the capacity to neutralize acid at pH 9. Therefore, more cement (> 4 %) is needed to achieve ANC₉ of greater than 1 eq/kg, in order to be landfilled at a segregated landfill.
- It can be concluded from the results of this study that kaolin stabilization by using Portland cement and rubber chips would not be harmful for the environment and soil.

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6.0 REFERENCES


