## Low Temperature Accelerated Aging Study of Propellant Charge in Structural Tester

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**Abstract**: In low temperature accelerated aging test method, using maximum tensile strength( $\sigma_m$ ) and maximum elongation( $\varepsilon_m$ ) under uniaxial stretching conditions as aging propellant characteristic parameters, the characteristic changing trend of propellant with different strain level in structural tester at −28 °C was studied. Results indicate that the main reason of the aging of propellant with strain is due to the stress damage under low temperature. The dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA) test validates that the damage of the propellant happenes. The  $\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle m}$  of the propellant increases and the  $\varepsilon_{\scriptscriptstyle m}$  is waved with time gradually under normal temperature tension tests with the stretching speed of 100 mm · min<sup>-1</sup>, and the test temperature (23±2) °C. And after 19 weeks low temperature aging, the  $\sigma_m$  of 15% strain structural tester was increased by nearly 30%. The  $\sigma_m$  of the propellant increases and  $\varepsilon_m$ was decreased greatly with time change under low temperature tension test with stretching rate of 500 mm ⋅ min<sup>-1</sup> and (-55±2) ℃. And after 19 weeks low temperature aging, the  $\sigma_m$  of 15% strain structural tester increases by nearly 11% and the  $\varepsilon_m$  decreases by nearly 29%. The ageing mechanism of propellant with strain under low temperature may be physical damage due to the effect of stress or strain, including net cohesion damage and the interface dewetting between solid grains and binder.

Key words: propellant; aging; strain; damage; mechanical properties

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