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PROCESS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BENEFICIATED TITANIA SLAG

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
ABSTRACT	xviii
OPSOMMING	xx
CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The occurrence and uses of titanium dioxide	1
1.2 Pigment production processes	1
1.2.1 The sulphate process	2
1.2.2 The chloride process	2
1.2.3 Feedstock requirements for the chloride process	3
1.3 The production of titania slag	4
1.4 Slag upgrading processes	5
1.4.1 Oxidation and reduction roasting followed by leaching	5
1.4.2 Oxidation roasting followed by leaching	6
1.4.3 Salt roasting followed by leaching	7
1.4.4 Oxidation and fluxing of molten slag followed by leaching	7
1.4.5 Sulphidation and/or sulphation roasting followed by leaching	8
1.4.6 Chlorination	9
1.5 The motivation for upgrading chloride grade titania slag	9
CHAPTER 2	
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION	
2.1 Experimental design	11
2.1.1 Feed material and experimental plan	11
2.2 Experimental procedure	12
2.2.1 Slag pretreatment	12
2.2.2 Leaching	12
2.3 Results and discussion	13
2.4 Conclusions	16
CHAPTER 3	
PROCESS DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1	
3.1 Introduction	17
3.2 Experimental design	17
3.2.1 Feed material	17



3.2.2 Experimental plan	17
3.2.3 Experimental procedure	18
3.2.3.1 Roast procedure	18
3.2.3.1 Leach procedure	18
3.3. Results and discussion	19
3.3.1 Roast investigation	19
3.3.2 Leach investigation	20
3.3.3 Mineralogical investigation	22
3.3.3.1 As-cast titania feed slag	22
3.3.3.2 Oxidation	23
3.3.3.3 Reduction	30
3.3.3.4 Leaching	34
3.3.4 Summary of the mineralogical changes that occur during roasting	38
3.3.4.1 Standard slag	38
3.3.4.2 High iron slag	40
3.3.4.3 High magnesia slag	40
3.4 Conclusions	41
 CHAPTER 4 PROCESS DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2	
4.1 Introduction	42
4.2 Experimental design	42
4.2.1 Feed material	42
4.2.2 Experimental plan	42
4.2.3 Experimental procedure	43
4.2.3.1 Roast procedure	43
4.2.3.2 Leach procedure	44
4.2.3.3 Electron microprobe analysis procedure	44
4.3 Results and discussion	45
4.3.1 Standard titania slag	45
4.3.1.1 Oxidation	45
4.3.1.2 Reduction	57
4.3.1.3 Particle size	61
4.3.2 High iron titania slag	63
4.3.2.1 Oxidation	63
4.3.2.2 Particle size	72
4.4 Conclusions	73
 CHAPTER 5 THE OXIDATION MECHANISM OF TITANIA SLAG	
5.1 Introduction	74
5.2 Background	74
5.2.1 Segregation and diffusion of elements in oxide systems	74



5.2.2 Diffusion of Fe in TiO ₂	74
5.3 Oxidation of titaniferous materials	75
5.3.1 Thermodynamics	75
5.3.2 Kinetics of titania slag oxidation	78
5.3.3 Kinetics of ilmenite oxidation	78
5.3.4 Kinetics of titanomagnetite oxidation	78
5.4 Proposed mechanism of titania slag oxidation	79
5.5 Experimental plan	81
5.6 Experimental procedure	81
5.6.1 Roasting	81
5.6.2 Leaching	81
5.7 Results and discussion	81
5.7.1 Investigation into the roasting conditions required for iron migration	81
5.7.2 Porosity and particle size changes during roasting	83
5.7.3 Investigation into the oxidation of coated slag particles	84
5.7.4 Investigation into the oxidation state of iron at various positions in oxidised slag particles	86
5.7.4.1 WDS point chemical analysis	86
5.7.4.2 Leach investigation	87
5.7.5 Investigation into the influence of iron-rich rims on the mechanism of oxidation	90
5.7.6 Investigation into the influence of higher roasting temperatures on the mechanism of oxidation	94
5.7.7 Investigation into the influence of interrupted roasting on the mechanism of oxidation	98
5.8 Quantitative WDS analyses of selected phases in oxidised slag	103
5.9 Conclusions	104
SUMMARY	105
REFERENCES	106
APPENDICES	108
Appendix I Chemical analysis of the feed slags used for the preliminary investigation	109
Appendix II Log sheets for the preliminary investigation experiments	110
Appendix III Chemical analyses of the feed slags used for process development phase 1	129
Appendix IV Results of the process development phase 1 roast investigation	130
Appendix V Results of the process development phase 1 leach investigation	133
Appendix VI Titration procedure used to determine the Fe(II), Fe(III) and HCl concentrations of the leach liquors	143
Appendix VII Chemical analyses of the feed slags used for process	144

	development phase 2	
Appendix VIII	List of experiments conducted for process development phase 2	145
Appendix IX	Phase 2, Series 1 – Logsheets	149
Appendix X	Phase 2, Series 2 – Logsheets	169
Appendix XI	Phase 2, Series 3 – Logsheets	189
Appendix XII	Phase 2, Series 4 – Logsheets	223
Appendix XIII	Calculation of the gas flow rate necessary for fluidisation	231
Appendix XIV	Chemical composition profile data	234
Appendix XV	Reduction leach logsheets	276
Appendix XVI	Estimation of the oxygen isobars for oxidation and reduction at 850°C	285
Appendix XVII	Formation of hematite or ferric pseudobrookite during oxidation	288
Appendix XVIII	Mössbauer data	290

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1

Figure 1	Flow diagram of the proposed IHM ilmenite smelting plant	4
Figure 2	Titaniferous feedstock prices	9

CHAPTER 2

Figure 3	The leach kinetics of titanium and iron in 20% HCl from: A Standard as-cast slag at 95°C; B High iron granulated slag containing at 95°C; C Oxidised and reduced slag at 107°C and; D phosphate fluxed slag at 95°C	15
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CHAPTER 3

Figure 4	Summary of the results from the tests conducted to evaluate the effect of leach time and feed slag composition	20
Figure 5	The effect of excess hydrochloric acid on iron extraction at different initial hydrochloric acid concentrations	21
Figure 6	The effect of initial hydrochloric acid concentration on iron extraction at different levels of excess hydrochloric acid	21
Figure 7	The effect of acid concentration and the level of excess acid on the final product quality after 12 h of leaching	22
Figure 8	As-cast standard titania slag	23
Figure 9	Standard slag oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C, displaying iron migration towards the edges of cracks and the outer rims of the particles	25
Figure 10	Standard slag oxidised for 3 h at 800 °C, contained dense particles that displayed iron enrichment to the outsides of the particles	25
Figure 11	(Left side) Longer oxidation times resulted in a decrease in the size of the unreacted cores in the particles and an increase in the amount of iron migration to the outsides of the particles. (Right side) Two distinct phases were visible in the iron-enriched rim on the outsides of the oxidised particles	26
Figure 12	High iron slag particle oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C displaying iron migration towards the edges of cracks leaving the adjacent areas enriched in titania and slightly porous. Particle core consisted of the M_3O_5 -solid solution. The glass phase depicted in micrograph (b) contained ilmenite	28
Figure 13	High iron slag particle oxidised at 850 °C for 3 h displaying a well defined zoned texture with M_3O_5 -rich inner core, TiO_2 -rich mantle and porous, iron-enriched outer rim	28

Figure 14	High magnesium slag (PFE418) particle oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C displaying M_3O_5 -rich core and TiO_2 -rich mantle with iron enrichment towards the edges of cracks and outer rim of the slag particle. Metallic iron precipitates were evident in the vicinity of internal cracks	29
Figure 15	High magnesium slag (PFE418) particle oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C displaying M_3O_5 -rich core with metallic iron precipitates associated with rutile along internal cracks extending through the particle	30
Figure 16	Standard slag (PFE437) particle, which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 1 h and reduced for 40 min at 800 °C displaying porosity and iron migration towards the outer margins of the particle. This particular slag particle had no unreacted core	31
Figure 17	High iron slag oxidised at 850°C for 3 h and reduced at 800°C for 30 minutes containing small unreacted M_3O_5 cores and broad TiO_2 mantles. Iron enrichment towards the outer margins of the particles can be observed	33
Figure 18	Oxidised and reduced high iron slag particle displaying iron enrichment towards the particle rim and along the edges of cracks extending through the particle	33
Figure 19	Optical micrograph of high magnesia slag which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h and reduced at 800 °C for 30 min. Precipitated carbon associated with the particle is clearly visible	34
Figure 20	Standard slag, oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C; reduced at 800 °C for 40 min; leached for 5 h and calcined at 800°C for 2 h	35
Figure 21	High iron slag that was oxidised, reduced and then leached for 12 h	36
Figure 22	Optical micrograph of the high iron slag which was oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C, reduced for 30 min. at 800 °C, leached for 12 h and calcined. The exterior of the particles consisted predominantly of rutile and the interior predominantly of anatase	37
Figure 23	High magnesia slag, leached for 1 h; the effect of leaching is visible mainly at the outer margins of the individual slag particles	38
Figure 24	Optical micrograph of the high magnesia slag, which was oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C, reduced for 30 min. at 800 °C, leached for 12 h and calcined. The particle display a zoned appearance, in the center is an unreacted core surrounded by a mantle of anatase, while the rims consist of rutile	38
Figure 25	Summary of the morphological changes that occur during the production of BTS	39

CHAPTER 4

Figure 26	Experimental set-up used for the roast experiments	43
Figure 27	Standard titania slag oxidised for ½ h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	46
Figure 28	Standard titania slag oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	46
Figure 29	Standard titania slag oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	47
Figure 30	Standard titania slag oxidised for 4 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	47
Figure 31	Standard titania slag oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ and reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO. SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	48
Figure 32	Standard titania slag oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl. SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	49
Figure 33	The influence of oxidation time during roasting of standard slag on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached in boiling HCl for 12 h	50
Figure 34	The influence of oxidation time, during roasting of standard slag, on iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached in boiling HCl for 12 h	51
Figure 35	The change in the oxidation state of iron during oxidation roasting of standard titania slag as determined by Mössbauer analysis	52
Figure 36	Changes in the relative concentration of the iron containing phases during oxidation roasting of standard titania slag as determined by Mössbauer analysis	52
Figure 37	The influence of oxygen concentration and temperature during oxidation of standard slag on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised for 2 h, reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl. The slag contained the equivalent of 85% TiO ₂ before treatment	55

Figure 38	The influence of oxygen concentration during oxidation of standard slag at 850 °C on the total iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised for 2 h, reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	56
Figure 39	The influence of roasting temperature and oxygen concentration during oxidation of standard slag on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised for 2 h, reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	56
Figure 40	The influence of reduction time, during roasting of standard slag, on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	58
Figure 41	The influence of reduction time during roasting of standard slag on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	59
Figure 42	The changes in the oxidation state of iron during reduction as determined by Mössbauer analysis	60
Figure 43	The changes in the relative concentration of the iron containing phases in oxidised standard titania slag during reduction for various times as determined by Mössbauer analysis	60
Figure 44	The influence of the particle size distribution of standard slag on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in 20 % HCl	62
Figure 45	The influence of the particle size distribution of standard slag on iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling HCl	62
Figure 46	The influence of oxidation time and the particle size distribution of standard slag on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	63
Figure 47	High iron titania slag oxidised for ½ h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	65
Figure 48	High iron titania slag oxidised for 1 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	65
Figure 49	High iron titania slag oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	66

Figure 50	High iron titania slag oxidised for 4 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ . SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile (weight %) through one of the particles are shown	66
Figure 51	High iron titania slag oxidised for 2 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ and reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO. SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile through one of the particles are shown	68
Figure 52	High iron titania slag oxidised for 4 h at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl. SEM micrographs as well as a chemical composition profile through one of the particles are shown	68
Figure 53	The influence of oxidation time, during roasting of high iron slag, on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	69
Figure 54	The influence of oxidation time, during roasting of high iron slag, on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	69
Figure 55	The influence of oxygen concentration and temperature (in air-CO ₂ mixtures) during oxidation of high iron slag on BTS product grade. The slag was oxidised for 2 h, reduced for 20 min in 100% CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl. The slag contained and equivalent of 72% TiO ₂ before treatment	71
Figure 56	The influence of temperature and oxygen concentration during oxidation of high iron slag on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised for 2 h, reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in 20 % HCl	71
Figure 57	The effect of particle size distribution on final BTS grade. The slag was oxidised at 850°C for 2 h in 8% O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100% CO and leached for 12 h in 20% HCl	72
Figure 58	The influence of the particle size distribution of high iron slag on the rate of iron extraction during leaching. The slag was oxidised at 850°C for 2 h in 8% O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100% CO and leached for 12 h in 20% HCl	72

CHAPTER 5

Figure 59	Part of the Ti-O-Fe phase diagram at 1000 °C (compiled from phase diagrams produced by Lindsley, 1976 and Ericksson and Pelton, 1996). A star indicates the chemical composition of as-cast slag and the oxidation path of this material is indicated by a dotted line	76
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Figure 60	The effect of temperature on the $\text{TiO}_2\text{-FeO-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ phase diagram (Haggerty, 1976)	76
Figure 61	The isotherm of the $\text{Fe-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-TiO}_2$ system at 800 °C (after Borowiec and Rosenqvist, 1981)	77
Figure 62	Summary of the phase and chemical changes that occurs in titania slag during oxidation	79
Figure 63	Proposed mechanism for the oxidation of titania slag	80
Figure 64	Slag roasted for 2 h at 850 °C. Oxygen was used to roast sample A, air was used for sample B and argon was used for sample C	82
Figure 65	Particle size changes during roasting of titania slag	84
Figure 66	Micrographs of the slag sample coated with gold after roasting in air at 850°C for 30 min	85
Figure 67	Variation of iron concentration, iron oxidation state and titanium oxidation state along a line through an oxidised slag particle	87
Figure 68	Titania slag oxidised for 45 min in 10 % O_2 at 850 °C and leached for different times under reducing conditions	88
Figure 69	Iron speciation in solution during leaching of oxidised titania slag	89
Figure 70	Iron speciation in solution during leaching of slag that was previously oxidised and reduction leached	90
Figure 71	Titania slag that was oxidised for 45 min in air, reduction leached for 1 h and roasted again in air for 2 h at 850°C	91
Figure 72	Titania slag that was oxidised for 45 min in air, reduction leached for 1 h and roasted again in argon for 2 h at 850°C	92
Figure 73	Titania slag that was oxidised for 45 min in air, reduction leached for 1 h and roasted again in carbon monoxide for 2 h at 850°C	93
Figure 74	Micrographs of slag oxidised at 1050 °C for various times. Micrographs of the samples after reduction for 20 min at 850 °C are also shown	95
Figure 75	WDS Line chemical analysis through a particle of standard titania slag that was oxidised at 1050 °C for 30 min in 10 % O_2	97
Figure 76	WDS Line chemical analysis through a particle of standard titania slag that was oxidised at 1050 °C for 60 min in 10 % O_2	98
Figure 77	Micrographs of a titania slag sample that was oxidised at 850 °C for 30 min, then cooled to room temperature and oxidised again at 850 °C for 2 h	99
Figure 78	Micrographs of a titania slag sample that was oxidised at 850 °C for 30 min, then cooled to room temperature and oxidised again at 1050 °C for 2 h	101

Figure 79	Micrographs of a recrystallised titania slag particle observed in the slag sample that was oxidised at 850 °C for 30 min, then cooled to room temperature and oxidised again at 1050 °C for 2 h	102
Figure 80	Micrographs of sintered titania slag particles observed in a sample that was oxidised at 850 °C for 30 min, then cooled to room temperature and oxidised again at 1050 °C for 2 h	103

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER 1

Table 1	Impact of feedstock impurities on chloride process unit operations	3
Table 2	SORELSLAG™ composition	5
Table 3	Upgraded Slag composition	6
Table 4	SORELSLAG™ composition	7
Table 5	QIT salt roasting product composition	7
Table 6	US Bureau of Mines slag composition	7
Table 7	Synthetic rutile product composition	8
Table 8	Feed slag composition to the sulphiding-sulphation process	8
Table 9	Impurity content of the residue from the sulphiding-sulphation process	8
Table 10	Feed slag to the chlorination process	9
Table 11	Chlorination process product composition	9

CHAPTER 2

Table 12	Chemical composition of the feed slags	11
Table 13	The effect of different pre-treatments and slag compositions on the leachability of impurities	13
Table 14	The effect of phosphate fluxing on the leachability of impurities from titania slag	14
Table 15	The leach results presented in Table 14 normalised to a silica free basis	14
Table 16	Phase-chemical composition of the slag, given in order of decreasing abundance	16

CHAPTER 3

Table 17	Concentration of selected species in the feed slags used for this investigation	17
Table 18	Coal analysis	17
Table 19	Variables investigated during the roast study	18
Table 20	Variables investigated during the leach study	18
Table 21	Results of the roast investigation on feed slag PFE437	19
Table 22	Phase-chemical composition of the feed slag samples as determined by XRD, given in order of decreasing abundance. The chemical compositions used to classify the slags are also given	23
Table 23	Phase-chemical compositions of slag PFE437 after oxidation at different temperatures and times, given in order of decreasing abundance	24

Table 24	Phase chemical composition of slag PFE657 after oxidation at 850 °C for different times, given in order of decreasing abundance	24
Table 25	Phase-chemical composition of the high iron containing slag PFE436 after oxidation at 850 °C with increasing time, given in order of decreasing abundance	27
Table 26	Phase-chemical composition of the high magnesium slag PFE418 after oxidation at 850 °C with increasing time, given in order of decreasing abundance	29
Table 27	Phase-chemical composition of standard slag (PFE437) which had been oxidised and reduced at different temperatures and times, given in order of decreasing abundance	31
Table 28	Phase-chemical composition of the high iron slag (PFE436) which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 3 h and reduced at 800 °C for 30 min; given in order of decreasing abundance	32
Table 29	Phase-chemical composition of the high magnesia slag (PFE418) which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 3 h and reduced at 800 °C for 30 min; given in order of decreasing abundance	33
Table 30	Phase-chemical composition of standard slag that had been oxidised and reduced at different temperatures and times, leached for 5 h and calcined at 800 °C for 2 h, given in order of decreasing abundance	35
Table 31	Phase-chemical composition of high iron slag which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 3 h and reduced at 800 °C for 30 min, leached for different times and calcined; given in order of decreasing abundance	36
Table 32	Phase-chemical composition of high magnesia slag which had been oxidised at 850 °C for 3 h and reduced at 800 °C for 30 min, leached for different times and calcined; given in order of decreasing abundance	37

CHAPTER 4

Table 33	Chemical composition of the feed slags used in this investigation	42
Table 34	Phase-chemical composition of the feed slags used in this investigation	42
Table 35	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of standard slag after oxidation. The samples are categorised by the oxidation time used. For the experiments listed the slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂	45

Table 36	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of standard slag after oxidation and reduction. The samples are categorised by the oxidation time used. For the experiments listed the slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ and reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min	48
Table 37	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of standard slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the oxidation time used. For the experiments listed the slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached in 20 % HCl for 12 h	49
Table 38	Phase chemical analysis, as determined by XRD, of the oxidation samples used for the Mössbauer investigation	51
Table 39	The phase chemical composition as determined by XRD of standard slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the oxidation atmosphere that was used. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h, reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached in boiling 20 % HCl for 12 h	53
Table 40	The phase-chemical composition as determined by XRD-analysis of standard slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the roasting temperature that was used. The slag was oxidised in 8 % O ₂ for 2 h, reduced in 100 % CO and leached for 12 h in boiling 20 % HCl	54
Table 41	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of standard slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the retention time during reduction. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h in 8% O ₂ , and reduced in 100 % CO	57
Table 42	Phase chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of the oxidised and reduced samples submitted for Mössbauer analysis	59
Table 43	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of standard slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the size distribution used. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C for 2 h in 8 % O ₂ , reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min and leached in boiling 20 % HCl for 12 h	61
Table 44	The phase-chemical composition of high iron titania slag after oxidation. The samples are categorised by the retention time during oxidation. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂	63

Table 45	The phase-chemical composition of high iron titania slag after oxidation and reduction. The samples are categorised by the retention time during oxidation. The slag was oxidised at 850 °C in 8 % O ₂ and reduced in 100 % CO for 20 min	67
Table 46	The phase-chemical composition, as determined by XRD, of high iron slag after oxidation, reduction and leaching. The samples are categorised by the retention time during oxidation. For the experiments listed the slag was oxidised at 850°C in 8 % O ₂ , reduced for 20 min in 100 % CO and leached in 20 % HCl for 12 h	67

CHAPTER 5

Table 47	Phase composition of the slag samples roasted in 100 % O ₂ , air and argon at 850 °C for 2 h	81
Table 48	Porosity of slag particles before and after the roasting stages	84
Table 49	Phase composition of the gold coated titania slag roasted in air at 850 °C for 30 min	85
Table 50	Phase-chemical compositions as determined by XRD of oxidised and reduction leached titania slag after roasting in various atmospheres	94
Table 51	Phase-chemical compositions of slag samples roasted at 1050 °C	96
Table 52	Mössbauer analysis of slag samples oxidised at 1050 °C and reduced at 850 °C	97
Table 53	Phase-chemical composition as determined by XRD-analysis of the samples subjected to interrupted roasting	99
Table 54	Quantitative WDS analyses of selected phases in oxidised slag	104

PROSESONTWIKKELING VIR DIE PRODUKSIE VAN OPGEGRADEERDE TITAAN SLAK

deur

Jacobus Philippus van Dyk

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OPSOMMING

Daar is 'n reeks voermateriale beskikbaar vir die produksie van TiO_2 pigment. Dit wissel van natuurlike voermateriale soos ilmeniet en rutiel to sintetiese rutiel. Daar is 'n sterk toename in die prys van titaanryke voermateriale soos die TiO_2 graad van die materiale toeneem. 'n Proses is ontwikkel om voordeel te trek uit die prysverskil tussen chloriedgraad slak en natuurlike rutiel. Die proses verhoog die TiO_2 inhoud van die slak van ~85% na meer as 95%. Hierdie "beneficiated titania slag" (BTS) lyk na 'n ideale voermateriaal vir die chloried proses.

Aanvanklik is verskeie prosesse geëvalueer. Daar is veral klem gelê op die voorafbehandeling van die slak. Dit was nodig omdat die onsuiverhede in slak baie moeilik loog. Deur van 'n geskikte voorafbehandeling gebruik te maak kan die onsuiverhede maklik loogbaar gemaak word, terwyl die titaan grootliks nie-loogbaar bly. Die resultate het getoon dat 'n proses wat uit oksidasie- en reduksie roosting bestaan gevolg deur loging, die grootste kans op sukses het.

Die eerste deel van die prosesontwikkeling is in 'n steenkoolgevuurde fluidbedrooster gedoen. Die prosesparameters was gedeeltelik geoptimeer, omdat daar kon slegs BTS met 'n TiO_2 inhoud van 94% gemaak kon word. Die daaropvolgende prosesontwikkeling is in 'n klein roostereaktor gedoen wat gekoppel was aan 'n gasmengstelsel. Dit het beter beheer oor die roostertoestand toegelaat. Die proses parameters is hiermee geoptimeer na: oksidasie by 850 °C vir 1.5 h in 8% O_2 ; reduksie by 850 °C vir 10 min in 100% CO en loging in 20% kokende soutsuur. Onder hierdie prosesondisies is BTS met 'n graad van > 97% TiO_2 geproduseer.

PROCESS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BENEFICIATED TITANIA SLAG

by

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ABSTRACT

There is a range of feed materials available for the production of TiO₂ pigment. These range from natural materials like ilmenite and rutile to synthetic materials like synthetic rutile. There is a large increase in the price of titaniferous feed materials as the TiO₂ content of the material increases. To take advantage of the difference in price between chloride grade slag and natural rutile a process was developed to increase the TiO₂ content of chloride grade slag from ~85% to more than 95%. This beneficiated titania slag product (BTS) should be ideal as feed material to the chloride pigment process.

Initially several processes were evaluated. Particular emphasis was placed on the slag pre-treatment procedure. This was necessary as impurities could only be leached with difficulty from as-cast slag. A suitable pre-treatment procedure would render the impurities easily leachable, while the titanium is retained in an insoluble form. The results indicated that a process consisting of oxidation and reduction roasting would satisfy these requirements.

Detailed process development was then undertaken on this process. The first phase of the process development was conducted in a coal fired fluid bed roaster. This allowed a set of semi optimised process parameters to be established, but the highest TiO₂ content that could be achieved was 94%. A second stage of process development was under taken under more controlled conditions, using a small fluid bed reactor connected to a gas mixing system. Based on the results in this phase of the process development a new set of optimum process parameters was established. They are oxidation at 850 °C for 1.5 h in an atmosphere containing 8% O₂; reduction at 850 °C for 10 min in a 100% CO atmosphere and leaching in boiling 20 % hydrochloric acid for 12 h. Under these conditions it was possible to produce BTS containing > 97% TiO₂.



During oxidation of titania slag several important morphological changes occur. These are the conversion of the original M_3O_5 phase in the slag to a mixture of rutile/anatase, hematite and ferric M_3O_5 . In the process the iron in the slag migrates to the outside surfaces of the slag particles where it is easily accessible during leaching. The iron containing phases are converted to ilmenite during reduction and during leaching the ilmenite is removed. This yields the BTS product. As the oxidation roast appeared to be a very important of the BTS process it was decided to investigate the mechanism of titania slag oxidation. A mechanism based on the nucleation energy that is required to form the relevant phases during oxidation was proposed. This mechanism was tentatively confirmed through selected experiments.