

## **Mechanical behavior of carbon-bonded alumina foam materials based on a lactose-tannin binder system at high temperatures**

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Ceramic foam filters (CFFs) made of carbon-bonded alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-C}$ ) are used to produce high-quality molten steels containing as few as possible non-metallic inclusions (NMIs) which may deteriorate the mechanical properties of the metal after solidification. For manufacturing of these filters environmentally more friendly, a lactose-tannin binder system has been recently introduced. Investigations on the thermomechanical behavior of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-C}$  foam filters based on the new binder system are necessary for a deeper understanding of the filter material at high temperatures.

Using a high-temperature testing machine with inductive heating equipment, compression and creep tests were performed at temperatures between 700 and 1400 °C under argon atmosphere for cylindrical foam specimens of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-C}$  made with lactose to tannin ratio (L:T) of 5:1, 4:1 and 3:1. Microstructural features of the specimens were examined by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The obtained results were compared with those of pitch-based specimens and used to evaluate the applicability of the lactose-tannin-based  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-C}$  foams for molten steel filtration.

*Keywords: carbon-bonded alumina; foam material; binder; mechanical behavior; high temperature*

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