

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

GRILAMID LKN-3H

Product description

Grilamid LKN-3H is a 30% glass bead reinforced, heat stabilised polyamide 12 injection moulding grade with the following property profile

- Very low moisture absorption
- Extremely good tolerances can be achieved
- Very dimensionally stable
- Low shrinkage
- Good sliding properties
- High abrasion resistance

Grilamid LKN-3H is suitable for production of technical parts in the application fields of:

- Electro
- Electronics
- Automotive
- Safety technology
- Mechanical engineering
- Domestic appliances

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PROPERTIES

Mechanical Properties

		Standard	Unit	State	Grilamid LKN-3H natural
Tensile E-Modulus	1 mm/min	ISO 527	MPa	cond.	1600
Tensile strength at yield	50 mm/min	ISO 527	MPa	cond.	45
Elongation at yield	50 mm/min	ISO 527	%	cond.	10
Tensile strength at break	50 mm/min	ISO 527	MPa	cond.	35
Elongation at break	50 mm/min	ISO 527	%	cond.	25
Impact strength	Charpy, 23°C	ISO 179/1eU	kJ/m ²	cond.	> 100
Impact strength	Charpy, -30°C	ISO 179/1eU	kJ/m ²	cond.	45
Notched impact strength	Charpy, 23°C	ISO 179/1eA	kJ/m ²	cond.	5
Notched impact strength	Charpy, -30°C	ISO 179/1eA	kJ/m ²	cond.	3
Ball indentation hardness		ISO 2039-1	MPa	cond.	75

Thermal Properties

Melting point	DSC	ISO 11357	°C	dry	178
Heat deflection temperature HDT/A	1.80 MPa	ISO 75	°C	dry	50
Heat deflection temperature HDT/C	8.00 MPa	ISO 75	°C	dry	40
Thermal expansion coefficient long.	23-55°C	ISO 11359	10 ⁻⁴ /K	dry	1.4
Thermal expansion coefficient trans.	23-55°C	ISO 11359	10 ⁻⁴ /K	dry	1.4
Maximum usage temperature	long term	ISO 2578	°C	dry	90 - 120
Maximum usage temperature	short term	ISO 2578	°C	dry	150

Electrical Properties

Dielectric strength		IEC 60243-1	kV/mm	cond.	35
Comparative tracking index	CTI	IEC 60112	-	cond.	600
Specific volume resistivity		IEC 60093	Ω · m	cond.	10 ¹¹
Specific surface resistivity		IEC 60093	Ω	cond.	10 ¹²

General Properties

Density		ISO 1183	g/cm ³	dry	1.21
Flammability (UL94)	0.8 mm	ISO 1210	rating	-	HB
Water absorption	23°C/sat.	ISO 62	%	-	1.2
Moisture absorption	23°C/50% r.h.	ISO 62	%	-	0.6
Linear mould shrinkage	long.	ISO 294	%	dry	0.95
Linear mould shrinkage	trans.	ISO 294	%	dry	1.00

Product-nomenclature acc. ISO 1874: PA 12, MHR, 18-020, GB30

Processing information for the injection moulding of Grilamid LKN-3H

This technical data sheet for Grilamid LKN-3H provides you with useful information on material preparation, machine requirements, tooling and processing.

MATERIAL PREPARATION

Grilamid LKN-3H is delivered dry and ready for processing in sealed, air tight packaging. Predrying is not necessary.

Storage

Sealed, undamaged bags can be kept over a long period of time in storage facilities which are dry, protected from the influence of weather and where the bags can be protected from damage.

Handling and safety

Detailed information can be obtained from the "Material Safety Data Sheet" (MSDS) which can be requested with every material order.

Drying

Grilamid LKN-3H is dried and packed with a moisture content of $\leq 0.10\%$. Should the packaging become damaged or be left open too long, then the material must be dried. A too high moisture content can be shown by a foaming melt, excessive nozzle drool and silver streaks on the moulded part.

Drying can be done as follows:

Desiccant dryer

Temperature:	max. 80°C
Time:	4 - 12 hours
Dew point of the dryer:	-25°C

Vacuum oven

Temperature:	max. 100°C
Time:	4 - 12 hours

Drying time

If there is only little evidence of foaming of the melt or just slight silver streaks on the part, then the above mentioned minimal drying time will be sufficient. If material is stored open for days, shows strong foaming, unusually easy flow, streaks or a rough surface on the moulded part, then the maximum drying time is required.



Silver streaks can also be caused by overheating of the material or by too long melt residence time in the barrel.

Drying temperature

Polyamides are affected by oxidation at temperatures above 80°C in the presence of oxygen. Visible yellowing of the material is an indication of oxidation. Hence, temperatures above 80°C for desiccant dryers and temperatures above 100°C for vacuum ovens should be avoided. In order to detect oxidation it is advised to keep a small amount of granulate (light colours only !) as a comparison sample.

At longer residence times (over 1 hour) hopper heating or a hopper dryer (80°C) is useful.

Use of regrind

Grilamid LKN-3H is a thermoplastic material. Hence, incomplete mouldings as well as sprues and runners can be reprocessed. The following points should be observed:

- Moisture absorption
- Grinding: Dust particles and particle size distribution
- Contamination through foreign material, dust, oil, etc.
- Level of addition to original material
- Colour variation
- Reduction of mechanical properties

When adding regrind, special care has to be taken by the moulder.

MACHINE REQUIREMENTS

Grilamid LKN-3H can be processed economically and without problems on all machines suitable for polyamides.

Screw

Wear protected, universal screws with shut-off nozzles are recommended (3 zones).

Screw

Length:	18 D - 22 D
Compression ratio:	2 - 2.5

Shot volume

The metering stroke (less decompression distance) must be longer than the length of the non-return valve.

Selecting the injection unit

Shot volume = 0.5 - 0.8 x
(max. shot volume of injection unit)

Heating

At least three separately controllable heating zones, capable of reaching cylinder temperatures up to 300°C. Separate nozzle heating is necessary. The cylinder flange temperature must be controllable (cooling).

Nozzle

Open nozzles are simple, allow an easy melt flow and are long lasting. There is however, the danger that during retraction of the screws following injection of the melt, air maybe drawn into the barrel (decompression). For this reason, needle shut-off nozzles are often used.

Clamping force

As a rule of thumb the clamping force can be estimated using the following formula:

Clamping force

$$7.5 \text{ kN}^1) \times \text{projected area (cm}^2)$$

¹⁾ for a cavity pressure of 750 bar

TOOLING

The design of the mould tool should follow the general rules for glass fibre reinforced thermoplastics.

For the mould cavities common mould tool steel quality (e.g. hardened steel) which has been hardened to level of 56 HRC is necessary. We recommend additional wear protection in areas of high flow rates in the tool (e.g. pin point gates, hot runner nozzles).

Demoulding / Draft angle

Parts moulded from Grilamid LKN-3H showing excellent dimensional stability. Asymmetric demoulding and undercuts are to be avoided. It is favourable to foresee high numbers of large ejector pins or a stripper plate. Demoulding draft angles between 1 to 5° are acceptable. Following values can be considered:

(VDI 3400)	12	15	18	21	24	27
Depth of roughness (µm)	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.2
Demoulding angle (%)	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5

(VDI 3400)	30	33	36	39	42	45
Depth of roughness (µm)	3.2	4.5	6.3	9	13	18
Demoulding angle (%)	1.8	2	2.5	3	4	5

Gate and runner

To achieve the best mould filling and avoid sink marks, a central gate at the thickest section of the moulding is recommended. Pin point (direct) or tunnel gates are more economical and more common with technical moulding.

To avoid premature solidification of the melt and difficult mould filing, the following points should be considered:

Gate diameter

0.8 x thickest wall section of the injection moulding part

Runner diameter

1.4 x thickest wall section of the injection moulding part (but minimum 4 mm)

VENTING

In order to prevent burning marks and improve weldline strength, proper venting of the mould cavity should be provided (venting channels on the parting surface dimensions: Depth 0.02 mm, width 2 - 5 mm).

PROCESSING

Mould filling, post pressure and dosing

The best surface finish and a high weld line strength are achieved when a high injection speed and a sufficiently long post pressure time are employed.

The injection speed should be regulated so as to reduce towards the end of the filling cycle in order to avoid burning. For dosing at low screw revolutions and pressure the cooling time should be fully utilised.

Basic machine settings

In order to start up the machine for processing Grilamid LKN-3H, the following basic settings can be recommended:

Temperatures

Flange	80°C
Zone 1	260°C
Zone 2	265°C
Zone 3	270°C
Nozzle	265°C
Tool	80°C
Melt	260°C

Pressures / Speeds

Injection speed	medium - high
Hold-on pressure (spec.)	300 - 800 bar
Dynamic pressure (hydr.)	5 - 15 bar
Screw speed	50 - 100 min ⁻¹

CUSTOMER SERVICES

EMS-GRIVORY is a specialist in polyamide synthesis and the processing of these materials. Our customer services are not only concerned with the manufacturing and supply of engineering thermoplastics but also provide full technical support including:

- Rheological design calculation / FEA
- Prototype tooling
- Material selection
- Processing support
- Mould and component design

We are happy to advise you. Simply call one of our sales offices.

The recommendations and data given are based on our experience to date, however, no liability can be assumed in connection with their usage and processing.

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