

Effect of Ba precursors on the formation of BaCO₃ supported granular alumina for lean NO_x trap

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BaO and BaCO₃ are well known as NO_x storage material for lean burn engine where the air to fuel ratio is high and subsequently the reduction of NO_x cannot be achieved completely. Under such circumstance, the NO_x is believed to be stored as Ba(NO₃)₂. The storage or sorption process should be occurred within 30–120 sec while the regeneration takes place in 1–10 sec. Therefore, the size and location of BaO or BaCO₃ is very important in determining the kinetics of the lean NO_x trap. In this work, we have investigated the effect of the Ba precursors on the formation of Ba sorption site. Among various precursors, BaCl₂·2H₂O was converted into BaO phase containing CO₃²⁻ as adsorbed species at lowest temperature around 423 K while Ba(HCOO)₂·xH₂O was transformed to BaCO₃ above 700 K. With the increase of the activation temperature, the portion of chemically bound species was increased compared to that of the physically adsorbed species while the total amount of CO₃²⁻ species was decreased due to the increase of the BaO island or BaAlO₂ portion which was confirmed by the results of FT-IR and X-ray diffraction.