



Industria y Comercio
SUPERINTENDENCIA

PETITORIO

SUPERINDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO

Radicación : 04097213 00000000

Folios: 115n

Fecha (AMB): 2004-09-29 17:28:33

Trámite : 011 PCT-PATENT 379 FASE NACI 411 PRESENTA

Dependencia: 2020 DIVISION DE NUEVAS CREACIONES

FORMULARIO UNICO DE SOLICITUD DE PATENTE
PCT
ENTRADA EN FASE NACIONAL

SOLICITUD DE:**1**☒ Patente de Invención.☐ Patente de Modelo de Utilidad.☐ Capítulo I.☒ Capítulo II.**2****SOLICITANTE**
(71)

Nombre: **SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB**
sociedad constituida y existente bajo las
leyes de Suecia
Dirección: S-405 03 Göteborg,
Suecia.
Domicilio: Göteborg,
Suecia.

IDENTIFICACIÓNC.C. ☐ NIT ☐C.E. ☐ Otro ☐

Cual _____

Número _____

3**REPRESENTANTE**
O APODERADO

Nombre: **EMILIO FERRERO**
Dirección: **Carrera 4ª. No. 72-35**
Teléfono: **347 36 11**
Fax: **217 92 11**
E-mail: **clientes@camyp.com.**
Domicilio: **Bogotá, Colombia.**

IDENTIFICACIÓNC.C. ☒ NIT ☐C.E. ☐ Otro ☐

Cual _____

Número **438.019** T.P **31.929****4****INVENTOR (ES)**
(72)

Michael JOHANSSON
Eskilsgatan 42,
S-432 42 Varberg,
Suecia.

5**PCT (86)**Solicitud Internacional No. **PCT/EP03/03381**Fecha: **1 de abril de 2003**Publicación Internacional No. **WO 03/082165 A2**Fecha: **9 de octubre de 2003****6****Título (54)****DISPOSICIÓN DE ALETA LATERAL DE PRODUCTO ABSORBENTE****7****Clasificación Internacional (51) A61F 13/15****8****Prioridad**

(33) País de Origen

(32) Fecha

(31) Número de Solicitud

SI ☒ NO ☐**EP.****2 de abril de 2002****02007498.5****9****Comprobante de pago No.: 04-76.088 Fecha: Septiembre 27/04**

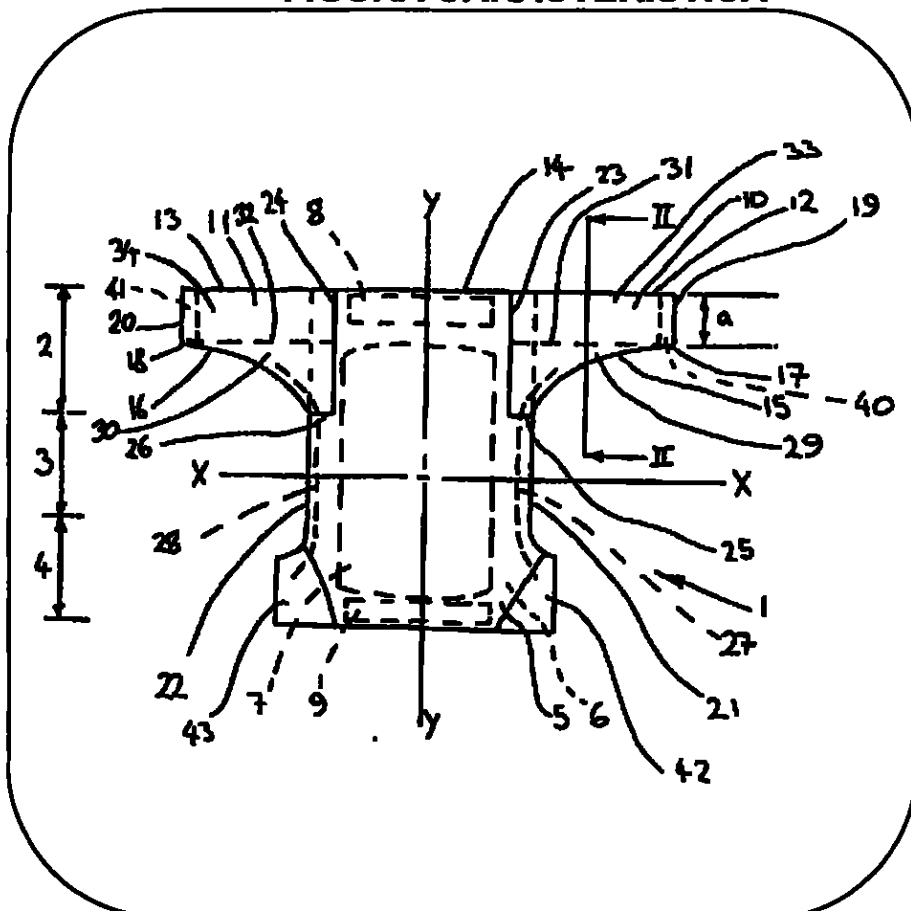
10

Anex s:

- ☒ Comprobante de pago de la tasa de presentación de la solicitud por \$ 422.000.00.
- ☐ Comprobante de pago por reivindicación de prioridad.
- ☒ Documento que acredita la existencia y representación legal cuando el solicitante sea persona jurídica.
- ☒ Poderes, si fuere el caso.
- ☒ Documento de cesión del inventor al solicitante o a su causante.
- ☐ Declaraciones.
- ☒ Copia de la solicitud internacional. (Resumen, descripción, reivindicaciones, dibujos)
- ☒ Traducción de la solicitud internacional al castellano. (Resumen, descripción, reivindicaciones, dibujos)
- ☒ Copia del examen preliminar efectuado por la IPEA.
- ☒ Traducción del examen preliminar efectuado por la IPEA.
- ☐ De ser el caso, copia del contrato de acceso.
- ☐ De ser el caso, documento que acredite la licencia o autorización de uso de conocimientos tradicionales de las comunidades indígenas.
- ☐ De ser el caso, certificado de depósito del material biológico.
- ☒ Arte final 12x12
- ☐ De ser el caso, información sobre otras solicitudes de patente o títulos obtenidos en el extranjero por el mismo titular o su causante, relacionadas parcial o totalmente con la invención de esta solicitud.
- ☐ Otros

11

FIGURA CARACTERÍSTICA



12

Solicito la concesión de la patente,

NOMBRE:

EMILIO FERRERO

FIRMA:

C.C. 438.019 de Usaquén T.P. 31.929

CAVELIER

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

REPRESENTACION Y PODER

I (we), the undersigned/Yo (nosotros), abajo firmado (s)

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

of/domiciliado (s) en S-405 03 Goteborg,
SWEDEN

por el presente nombramos a EMILIO FERRERO, tpa. 31929; GONZALO PERDOMO, tpa. 831; LUZ CLEMENCIA DE PAEZ, tpa. 23555 y GERMAN CAVELIER, tpa. 832, domiciliados en la Carrera 4ª N° 72-35, Bogotá, Colombia, en obediencia a lo dispuesto en el parágrafo 1º del Artículo 543 del Código de Comercio, el primero como principal y los demás como suplentes, en su orden, como mis (nuestros) representantes en todos los asuntos de propiedad industrial con facultad para recibir notificaciones y nombrar apoderados judiciales o extrajudiciales. El primer representante suplente reemplazará al principal en caso de ausencia o impedimento temporal o definitivo de aquél. La misma regla se aplicará cuando el segundo representante suplente haya de reemplazar al primero, o el tercero al segundo. En tales casos, el representante principal, o el primero, o segundo suplente, en su caso, o ambos, declararán su intención de no ejercer la representación mediante declaración autenticada por Notario Público en Colombia, o por Notario u otro Funcionario Público, o Cónsul de Colombia, en el extranjero; y si se tratare de impedimento, con el certificado respectivo. Si alguno de los nombrados faltare definitivamente, el siguiente tomará su lugar. Cuando cesare la ausencia o impedimento del representante principal, o de su primero o segundo suplentes, en su caso, podrán ejercer la representación, en su orden, uno u otros según el caso, asumiéndola por el solo hecho de ejercerla, cesando en ese momento el ejercicio de la representación por el primero, segundo o tercer suplente en su caso.

Además, confiero (conferimos) poder a los abogados arriba nombrados, para obtener la protección de mi (nuestra) propiedad industrial y contra la competencia desleal, a cuyo efecto autorizo (amos) a los dichos apoderados para que me (nos) representen ante cualesquiera entidades o personas, ejerzan o no jurisdicción, especialmente ante las del orden administrativo, contencioso-administrativo y judicial, así como los tribunales de arbitramento, en todo lo concerniente a los siguientes asuntos: a) Obtención de patentes de invención, modelos de utilidad, y diseños industriales; el registro de marcas de fábrica, colectivas, defensivas, de servicio, lemas comerciales, nombres comerciales, enseñas, variedades vegetales y denominaciones de origen; su renovación, traspaso, cambio de nombre o domicilio, cancelación voluntaria; y el registro de licencias de uso de esos derechos; b) Las acciones de competencia desleal, protección del consumidor, oposiciones u observaciones, cancelación administrativa y judicial, nulidad, medidas cautelares, concesión de licencias, la tutela, la protección de secretos industriales, y en general los juicios civiles, penales, administrativos o contencioso-administrativos relacionados con estos derechos; acciones y procesos que promovamos o se nos promuevan. Y para que en todos los asuntos arriba determinados, puedan sustituir este mandato, transigir, conciliar, admitir los hechos del proceso, desistír, cancelar, recibir, renunciar, y ratificar los actos de agentes oficiosos.

For patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, commercial names, trade emblems, slogans.

Para patentes, modelos de utilidad, diseños industriales, marcas de fábrica, nombres comerciales, enseñas, lemas comerciales.

REPRESENTATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

11156
1031

In due compliance with the terms of paragraph 1st. of article 543 of the Commercial Code, do hereby appoint EMILIO FERRERO, tpa. 31929; GONZALO PERDOMO, tpa. 831; LUZ CLEMENCIA DE PAEZ, tpa. 23555 and GERMAN CAVELIER, tpa. 832, domiciled at Carrera 4ª N° 72-35, Bogotá, Colombia, the first as principal and the others as alternates, in the order of their appointment, as our representatives for all industrial property matters with faculty to receive notifications and to appoint attorneys in and out of Court. The first alternate shall replace the principal in case of his absence or of temporal or definitive impediment. The same rule will apply when the second alternate representative is to replace the first one, or when the third is to replace the first or second alternates in their turn; both of them, second. In such cases, the principal representative, or the first or second alternates in their turn, or both of them, shall state their intention not to act as representatives through a declaration given before a Notary Public in Colombia, or before a Notary or another Public Official or a Colombian Consul abroad; and in case of impediment, the appropriate certificate shall suffice. If any of the appointees were to be definitely absent, the following alternate shall take his place. When the absence or impediment of the principal representative, or of the first or second alternate in their turn ceases, the representation can be taken again in their sequence, by the principal, the first or second alternate depending on case, and the mere fact or its exercise will suffice. The exercise of the representation by the first, second or third alternates in their turn shall end at such time.

In addition, we grant a Power of Attorney in favor of the above-named attorneys-at-law so that they may obtain the protection of my (our) industrial property and against the unfair competition, for which purpose I (we) authorize the said attorneys to represent me (us) before any authorities or persons, with or without jurisdiction, specially those administrative, administrative contentious and judicial, as well as before Arbitration Court. In all matters concerning the following: a) Obtainment of patents, utility models and industrial designs; the registration of trademarks, collective, defensive and service marks, slogans, commercial names, trade emblems, vegetal varieties and denominations of origin; its renewal, assignment, change of name or domicile, voluntary cancellation; and the registration of licenses of use of the above rights; b) Actions of unfair competition, protection to the consumer, oppositions or observations, administrative or Court cancellation, nullity, infringement, granting of licenses, and in general the civil, penal, and administrative suits relating to those rights; actions and suits instituted by me (us) or against me (us). And that in all the above matters they may substitute this Power of Attorney, compromise, conciliate, admit the facts of the case, desist, cancel, receive, resign, and ratify acts done by representatives without a power of attorney.

Given and signed this/Dado y firmado hoy

Gothenburg 19 February 1999

In/en

Signature

Bengt Forshult

Head of Patent Department

Firma

SCA Hygiene Products AB

TRADUCCION No.: 1707199

MARIA ELVIA MARTELO

Traductora e Interprete Oficial

Inglés - Español - Inglés

Res. No. 2879 Min. Justicia

CAVELIER ABOGADOS

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

LEGALIZACION

El Señor Cónsul de Colombia debe expedir un certificado consular sobre (1) la existencia legal de la compañía que otorga el poder, (2) que ésta ejerce su objeto social, y (3) que las personas que otorgan el poder están autorizadas para darlo. A este efecto les solicitamos que muestren al Señor Cónsul las pruebas que acreditan esos hechos (1), (2) y (3).

LEGALIZATION

The Colombia Consul must issue a consular certificate on (1) the legal existence of the company which grants the Power-of-Attorney, (2) that it is in actual exercise of its company purposes, and (3) that the persons who execute the Power of Attorney is authorized to do so. To this effect, please show the Consul the evidence to prove the above facts (1), (2) and (3).

TRADUCCION No: 1707/99
MARIA ELVIRA MARQUELO
Traductora e Interprete Oficial
Inglés - Español - Inglés
Res. No. 2879 Min. Justicia

NO SE ASUME
RESPONSABILIDAD POR EL TEXTO
FEB 14 A 11:50
DE LEGALIZACIONES
DE LA EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES

I, the undersigned, RICKARD STRÖM, Notary Public of Gothenburg, Sweden, do hereby certify,

that Bengt Forshult

has personally signed this document overleaf, and

according to a Power of Attorney, dated 1998-08-11, signed by GUNNAR ANDERSSON and SVEN-ERIK WINLÖF, who are duly authorized

to sign jointly for and on behalf of

HYGIENE PRODUCTS AKTIEBOLAG - Org.No. 556007-2356

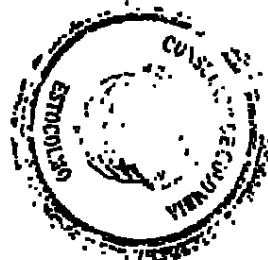
According to a Swedish Certificate of Registration, dated

1998-07-20, Bengt Forshult is duly authorized

to sign such a document on behalf of the company.

Gothenburg, this 25th day of February 1999

Exp.No.: 79234
Fee: SEK 350:-



PAGADO
Impuesto de Timbre
Certe
dólares US\$ 7
Cien

NO. 3066
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, hereby

certifies that

Mr. Bengt Forshult, Notary Public in Gothenburg, Sweden

has issued and signed the foregoing attestation in his official capacity

Fee Stockholm this 2nd day of March
Kr 120/- PAID 1977

Leif Högbom

MARIA SMITH RUEDA
Encargada de las Funciones Consulares

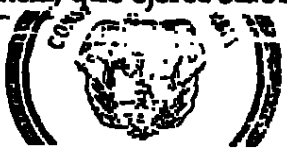
MA Smith R

Fecha: 1999-03-05

H: 022

que el señor Bengt Forshult
quien firma el presente documento
es representante de la Sociedad
Hygiene Products Aktiebolag
que existe de acuerdo a las leyes de
según se ve en el presente documento
tuvo a la vista

NOTA PARA EL SEÑOR CONSUL DE COLOMBIA: Según los artículos 65 del C. de P.C. y 480 del C. de Co., si el poderdante es una sociedad, el Señor Cónsul debe certificar que tuvo a la vista las pruebas de su existencia, que ejerce su objeto social y que quien confiere el poder es su representante.



Signature

Firma

Bengt Forshult

SCA Hygiene Products AB

Head of Patent Department

CAVELIER ABogados

PODERE-12 (MINUTA 12.1.12.5)

9:

9:

9:

TRADUCCION No.: 707199

MARIA ELVIRA MARTELO

Traductora e Interprete Oficial

Inglés - Español - Inglés

Res. No. 2879 Min. Justicia

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES

2020132
Malia Smith Rueda
Cuya firma aparece en el
DOCUMENTO DESEMPENA
LAS FUNCIONES INDICADAS

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES
NO SE ASUME
RESPONSABILIDAD DEL TEXTO
079530
ANULADO
Cuya firma aparece en el
DOCUMENTO DESEMPENA
LAS FUNCIONES INDICADAS

COMO NOTARIO SE
DE PODERES EN LA
FOTOCOPIA COINCIDE CON
QUE HA TENIDO A LA
21 SET 2004
JUAN MANUEL BOTERO MEDINA
NOTARIO

NOTA PARA EL SEÑOR CONSUL DE COLOMBIA DE QUE LOS ALFAROS DE ESTOCOLMO
si el poderdante es una sociedad, el Señor Cónsul debe certificar que tuvo a la vista las pruebas de su
exstencia, que ejerce su objeto social y que quien confiere el poder es su representante.



EL CONSULADO DE COLOMBIA EN
ESTOCOLMO, SUECIA

Fecha.....1999-07-01..... No:.....1329

Previa la confrontación correspondiente DA
FE de que la firma que aparece en este docu-
mento es similar a la REGISTRADA aquí por

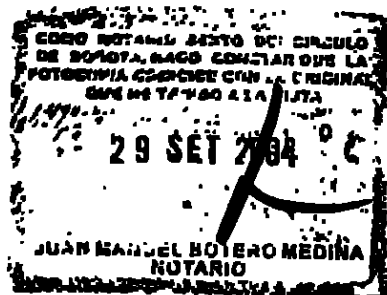
Inger Höglberg, Nra. Relaciones
Exteriores, Suecia.....

M. Smith
MARIA SMITH RUEDA
Encargada de las Funciones Consulares

PAGADO	
Impuesto de Timbre	7
Derechos Consulares	15



TRADUCCION No: 1729799
MARIA ELVIRA MASTELO
Traductora e Interprete Oficial
Inglés - Español - Inglés
Res. No. 2879 Min. Justicia



5

TRADUCCIÓN OFICIAL No. 17.07/99 preparada por María Elvira Martelo, Traductora Oficial aprobada por el Ministerio de Justicia por Resolución 2879 de 1995 y reconocida por el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

(A continuación se traducen los sellos y legalizaciones de un documento escrito en inglés y español, por el cual SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB otorga poder a EMILIO FERRERO, GONZALO PERDOMO, LUZ CLEMENCIA DE PAEZ Y GERMAN CAVELIER). Dado y firmado el 19 de febrero de 1999 en Gothenburg. (Firma ilegible) Bengt Forshult, Jefe del Departamento de Patentes.

Yo, el abajo firmante RICKARD STRÖM, Notario Público de Gothenburg, Suecia, por el presente certifico,

que Bengt Forshult

ha firmado personalmente el documento anterior y

que de acuerdo con el poder de fecha 1998-08-11, firmado por GUNNAR ANDERSSON y SVEN-ERIK WINLÖF, quienes están debidamente autorizados para firmar conjuntamente por y a nombre de SCA

HYGIENE PRODUCTS AKTIEBOLAG - Org. No. 556007-2356

Certificado de Registro Sueco de fecha 1998-07-20, Bengt Forshult está debidamente autorizado para firmar dicho documento a nombre de la compañía.

Gothenburg, 25 de febrero de 1999.

Ex oficio: (Firma ilegible), RICKARD STRÖM (Sello notarial).

Exp. No.: 79234

Derechos: SEK 350:--.

No. 3066

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores en Estocolmo por el presente certifica que el Sr. Rickard Ström, Notario Público de Goteborg, ha expedido y firmado la declaración anterior en su capacidad oficial.

Derechos Estocolmo, 25 de marzo

Kr. 120 PAGADOS de 1999

(Firma ilegible) Inger Högberg. (Sello en tinta) Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

(En español) Certificación de la capacidad legal de Bengt Forshult y de la existencia legal de SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AKTIEBOLAG expedida el 5 de marzo 1999 por el Consulado de Colombia en Estocolmo bajo el No. 022. (Firma) M. Smith. MARÍA SMITH RUEDA, Encargada de las Funciones Consulares. Sello consular en tinta. Pagados impuesto de timbre y derechos consulares.

(En español) Certificación de la firma de Inger Högberg, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Suecia, expedida el 01 de julio de 1999 por el Consulado de Colombia en Estocolmo bajo el No. 001329. (Firma) M. Smith. MARÍA SMITH RUEDA, Encargada de las Funciones Consulares. Sello consular en tinta. Pagados impuesto de timbre y derechos consulares.

(Al anverso) Legalización de la firma que antecede expedida por

2

el MINISTERI DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES bajo el No. 119916 del 14
de febrero del 2000, firmado por el Jefe de Legalizaciones.

Es traducción fiel y completa de la cual se deja copia en esta
oficina para su confrontación.

COLO 11256-801-014-7

Id. 108

Feb. 15/00

Maria Elvira Martelo
TRADUCCION No. 1107199
MARIA ELVIRA MARTELO
Traductora e Interprete Oficial
Inglés - Español - Inglés
Res. No. 2879 Min. Justicia

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
220552
C/ J. R. MARTO
CUYA FIRMA ATUECE EN EL
DOCUMENTO DESEMPENA
LAS FUNCIONES INDICADAS
SE SE ASUME
RESPONSABILIDAD DEL ACTO
2000 FEB 15/00
Jefe de LEGALIZACIONES
SANTAFÉ DE BOGOTÁ

COMO NOTARIO SEXTO DEL CIRCULO
DE BOGOTA, HAGO CONSTAR QUE LA
FOTOCOPIA COINCIDE CON EL ORIGINAL
QUE HE TENIDO A LA VISTA
29 SET 2004
JUAN GABRIEL BUSTO MEDINA
NOTARIO

COMO NOTARIO SEXTO DEL CIRCULO DE SANTAFÉ DE BOGOTÁ, HAGO CONSTAR QUE LA FIRMA(S) [Firma] CONCORDA(N) CON LA FIRMA REGISTRADA POR EL (ELLOS) EN ESTA NOTARIA SANTAFÉ DE BOGOTÁ.

16 FEB 2008



COMO NOTARIO SEXTO DEL CIRCULO DE BOGOTÁ, HAGO CONSTAR QUE LA FOTOCOPIA CONCIDE CON EL ORIGINAL QUE SE TENIO A LA VISTA.

29 SET 2004

JUAN MANUEL NOTERO MEDINA
NOTARIO

11-11-11

225

11-11-11

5505

23-11-11

CAVELIER
ABOGADOS
EDIFICIO SISKI
CARRERA 4a N° 72-35
BOGOTÁ, 8 - COLOMBIA

374

CESION

ASSIGNMENT

Yo, (nosotros) abajo firmado (s)

I (we), the undersigned

Mikael JOHANSSON

Mikael JOHANSSON

domiciliado(s) en

Eskilsgatan 42, S-432 42 Varberg, Suecia,

of

**Eskilsgatan 42, S-432 42 Varberg,
Sweden,**

declaro(amos) bajo juramento ser único(s) y verdadero(s)
inventor(es) de la invención:

state(s) under oath to be sole and true inventor(s) of the invention:

**ARREGLO DE ALETA LATERAL DE
PRODUCTO ABSORBENTE**

ABSORBENT PRODUCT SIDE FLAP ARRANGEMENT

declaro(amos) así mismo que cedo(amos) y transfiero(erimos), sin
limitación, a favor de la sociedad

state as well, that assign, without reservations or limitations in favour of

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

constituida y existente de conformidad con las leyes de

Suecia

a corporation constituted and existing in conformity with the laws of

Sweden

domiciliada en

S-405 03 Göteborg, Suecia

domiciled in

S-405 03 Göteborg, Sweden

todos los derechos inherentes a dicha invención y que la citada
Compañía queda facultada para solicitar en su nombre la patente de
invención correspondiente en la República de Colombia.

all rights inherent to said invention and that the above mentioned
company hereby is enabled to apply, in its name, for the corresponding
patent invention in the Republic of Colombia

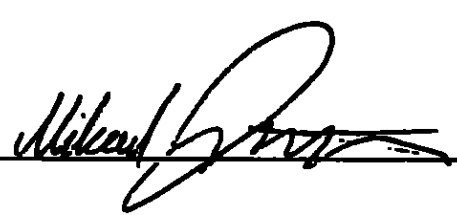
Dado y firmado hoy/ Given and signed this

2004-08-18

en/in

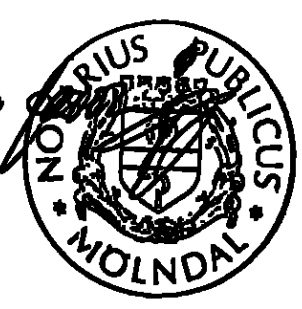
Göteborg

Firma/Signed

x 

P.T.O.

Valencia



CERTIFICACIÓN NOTARIAL (INDIVIDUO)

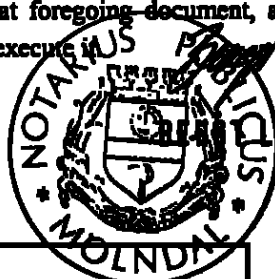
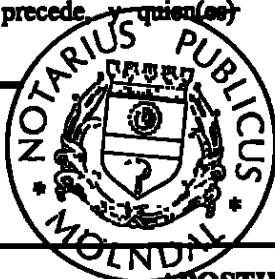
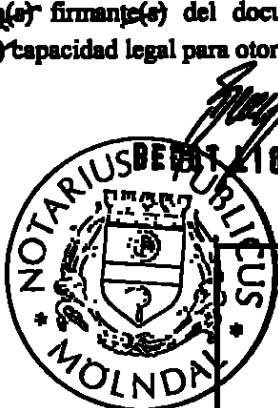
A los 18 días del mes de Agosto
de 200 4 ante mí, Notario Público o Funcionario Autorizado de
en Häländsk län
compareció(eron) personalmente Nikolai Johansson

a quien(es) doy fe de conocer y me consta que es(son) la(s)
persona(s) firmante(s) del documento que precede, y quien(es)
tiene(n) capacidad legal para otorgarlo.

NOTARIAL CERTIFICATION (INDIVIDUAL)

On this 18th day of August
200 4 before me, a Notary Public or Attesting Official of
in Häländsk län
personally appeared Nikolai Johansson

to me known, and known to me to be the person(s) who
executed that foregoing document, and who has(have) legal
capacity to execute it.



APOSTILLE

(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country:
2. This public document
3. has been signed by
4. acting in the capacity of
5. bears the seal/stamp of

Certified

6. at 6. the
7. by
8. No.
9. Seal/stamp
10. Signature



Volve p.f. !

APOSTILLE
(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country: SWEDEN

This public document

2. has been signed by BENGT LION

3. acting in the capacity of NOTARY PUBLIC

4. bears the seal/stamp of —

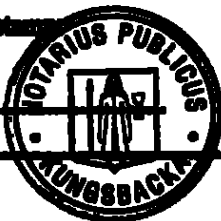
Certified

5. at Kungsbacka 6. the 2004-09-10

7. by Bengt Persson, Notary Public
in Kungsbacka

8. N° 04-4304

9. Seal/Stamp



10. Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

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TRADUCCIÓN OFICIAL 231/2004 DE UN DOCUMENTO ESCRITO EN INGLÉS Y EN ESPAÑOL, REALIZADA POR EDUARDO CALADO NOGUERA, TRADUCTOR OFICIAL APROBADO POR RESOLUCIÓN 541 DEL 27 DE FEBRERO DE 1976 POR EL MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA Y DEBIDAMENTE REGISTRADO ANTE EL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA Y MEDIANTE EL CUAL MIKAEL JOHANSSON, DOMICILIADO EN ESKILSGATAN 42, S-432 42 VARBERG, SUECIA, DECLARA BAJO JURAMENTO SER INVENTOR ÚNICO Y VERDADERO DE LA INVENCION ARREGLO DE ALETA LATERAL DE PRODUCTO ABSORBENTE Y QUE CEDE, SIN LIMITACIONES NI RESERVAS DICHO INVENTO EN FAVOR DE SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB, EMPRESA CONSTITUIDA Y EXISTENTE BAJO LAS LEYES DE SUECIA, DOMICILIADA EN 5-405 03, GÖTEBORG, SUECIA, JUNTO CON TODOS LOS DERECHOS INHERENTES Y QUE DICHA COMPAÑÍA QUEDA FACULTADA PARA SOLICITAR EN SU NOMBRE LA PATENTE CORRESPONDIENTE EN LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA. DADO Y FIRMADO HOY 18 DE AGOSTO DE 2004 EN GÖTEBORG, SUECIA.

FIRMADO: ILEGIBLE

SELLO: NOTARIO PÚBLICO, MÖLNDALE

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Eduardo Calado

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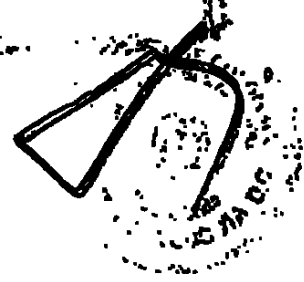
COMO NOTARIO SEXTO DEL CIRCULO DE SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, HAGO CONSTAR QUE LA(S) ANTERIOR(ES) FIRMA(S) PUESTA(S) POR

Eduardo Calado Noguera

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SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, 24 SET. 2004



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From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

To:

29. Okt. 2003

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Date of mailing(day/month/year) 09 October 2003 (09.10.03)		IMPORTANT NOTICE	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC			
International application No. PCT/EP03/03381	International filing date(day/month/year) 01 April 2003 (01.04.03)	Priority date(day/month/year) 02 April 2002 (02.04.02)	
Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB			

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this notice:

AU, AZ, BY, CH, CN, CO, DE, DZ, HU, JP, KG, KP, KR, MD, MK, MZ, RU, TM

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, BA, BB, BG, BR, BZ, CA, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, EA, EC, EE, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MG, MN, MW, MX, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 09 October 2003 (09.10.03) under No. 03/082165

4. **TIME LIMITS** for filing a demand for international preliminary examination and for entry into the national phase

The applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, subject to what is said in the following paragraph, be 30 MONTHS from the priority date, not only in respect of any elected Office if a demand for international preliminary examination is filed before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, but also in respect of any designated Office, in the absence of filing of such demand, where Article 22(1) as modified with effect from 1 April 2002 applies in respect of that designated Office. For further details, see *PCT Gazette* No. 44/2001 of 1 November 2001, pages 19926, 19932 and 19934, as well as the *PCT Newsletter*, October and November 2001 and February 2002 issues.

In practice, time limits other than the 30-month time limit will continue to apply, for various periods of time, in respect of certain designated or elected Offices. For regular updates on the applicable time limits (20, 21, 30 or 31 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>.

For filing a demand for international preliminary examination, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Chapter IX. Only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination (at present, all PCT Contracting States are bound by Chapter II).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor all these time limits.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Judith Zahra
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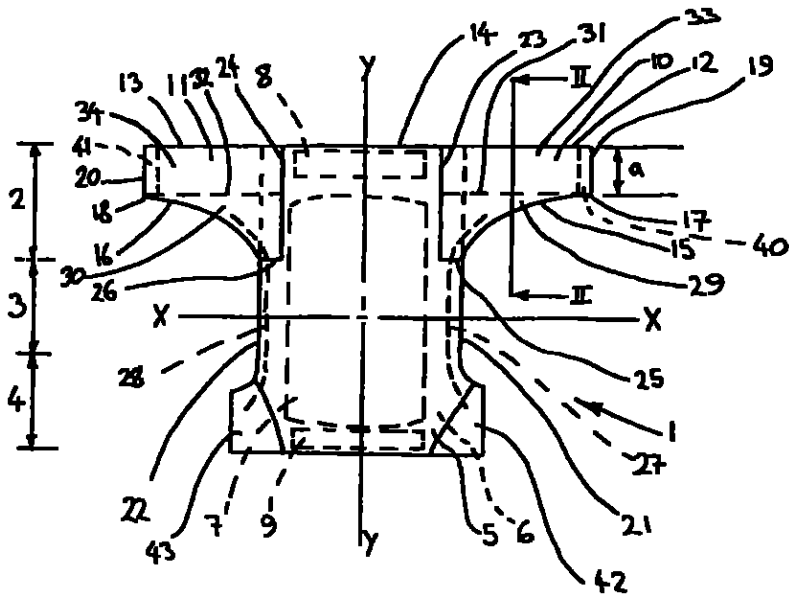
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(54) Title: ABSORBENT PRODUCT SIDE FLAP ARRANGEMENT



(57) Abstract: An absorbent product (1) has a first end portion (2) with two side flaps (10, 11) extending laterally outwardly on either side of a waist section (8). Each of the side flaps (10, 11) includes an upper edge (12, 13) and a lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26). Each of the side flaps (10, 11) further has an elastic section (33, 34) which is distinct from elastic in the waist section (8). The elastic section (33, 34) extends longitudinally over a portion of the lateral extent of the side flap (10, 11), over only part of the distance between the flap upper edge (12, 13) and lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26). A non-elastic section (29, 30) extends between a lower end (31, 32) of the elastic section (33, 34) and the flap lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26). In this way, elastic material can be saved while maintaining the requisite properties of the side flaps.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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Title: Absorbent product side flap arrangement

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Field of the invention:

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The present invention relates to an absorbent product for absorbing human exudate, such as a diaper, having side flaps at one end thereof to allow for releasable closure of said product around a user's waist. In particular, the invention relates to absorbent products having elastic side flaps, and to absorbent products of the disposable type, i.e. of the type which are to be discarded when soiled.

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The invention may however also be used with other absorbent products such as training pants which comprise sides which can be opened and then re-closed, or with products comprising re-usable absorbent core elements for example.

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Background to the invention:

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Disposable absorbent products having elastic side flaps are well known. One example of such an absorbent product having the features defined in the preamble of claim 1 is a diaper as disclosed in the document WO-A-99/60967. This document discloses an elastically extensible waist region comprising a continuous belt. Additionally disclosed, distinct from the elastic in the

waist section, are side flaps which may be elastic. The elasticity is provided by means of a layered structure consisting of a further elastic member, preferably laminated between layers of the absorbent product chassis. In the described product, the elastic in the waist portion also extends continuously into the upper portion of the side flaps.

When the side flaps are made elastic in WO-A-99/60967, the elastic material extends over the whole area of the side flaps from its lower edge upwards, although it is kept separate from the elastic material which is present in the waist region.

Even though the product known from WO-A-99/60967 has the advantage of being able to provide elasticated side flaps, such a construction is expensive due to the amount of elastic material used, elastic material being considerably more expensive than other sheet layer material (e.g. nonwoven material or other polymeric materials) used in non-elasticated side flaps and other non-elastic parts of absorbent products. Moreover, the structure of the side flaps is complicated when the side flaps should be formed to be elastic, since both waist elastic and separate side elastic are used.

Additionally, elastic side flaps present a further disadvantage in that the portion of the absorbent product which is located laterally in line with the longitudinal extent of the elastic side flaps, tends to be bunched together as a result of the elastic forces from the elastic side flaps. This bunching together results in the back of the wearer being less well covered (i.e. the absorbent product is less well fitted/adapted to the back

of the wearer) as compared to when non-elastic side flaps are used.

5 Since material cost is a primary concern in absorbent products, it is an object of the invention to provide an absorbent product having elasticated side flaps whereby a simple structure is obtained and whereby material costs are minimized without unduly affecting the functionality of the product as regard comfort and leakage etc.

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It is an additional object of the invention to provide an elasticated side flap structure which improves the fit of the diaper to the back of the wearer.

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Summary of the invention

The object of the invention is achieved by an absorbent product having the features defined in claim 1. Preferred features of the invention are defined in the dependent claims.

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Further features of the invention will be apparent to the reader of this specification.

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In accordance with the invention, the absorbent product is defined with respect to a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis. In this regard a longitudinal axis is intended to be that axis which extends between first and second opposed end portions which are joined by a middle or crotch portion. The mid points of the first, second and crotch portions are thus generally aligned with the longitudinal axis in most cases, unless non-uniformly arranged products are selected. The lateral axis is an axis intended to define the lateral or transverse direction and is thus generally perpendicular to, and

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normally substantially perpendicular to, the longitudinal axis.

5 While the invention is defined in relation to a first end portion, it will be understood that the first end portion may be chosen to lie at either end of the product.

10 The first end portion, which may be the rear portion intended to be worn at the wearer's back during use, comprises two side flaps on either side of a waist section. The waist section itself may be provided with waist elastic to provide additional comfort, whereby any elastic provided in the waist section should allow the waist section to be able to be extended elastically by up to 50% and preferably up to about 100%. However, the invention is primarily concerned with the elastic section of the side flaps which lies outside any elastic present in the waist region.

20 In the side flaps however, the elasticity should be greater than that in the waist section lying between the side flaps. The side flaps should thus be elastically extensible by an amount of more than 100% and preferably more than 150%, more preferably by more than 250% and even more preferably by more than 300%.

30 An elastic section is considered to be elastic in accordance with the invention if it can be elastically extended by more than 50% without substantial permanent strain, whereby substantial permanent strain is understood as being of the order of more than about 10 to 30% of the initial length at the first stretching.

35 In the invention, the elastic section of the side flap is to be understood as that part of the side flap, distinct

from any elastic in the waist section, which is provided with elastic material allowing the section to be stretched elastically, at least in the lateral direction. Thus, the lower border of the elastic section should be understood as the lower edge of where the elastic material (e.g. rubber sheet or elastic film material or the like) is located in the side flap.

Non-elastic sections may comprise a continuous or discontinuous sheet, web, layer or fabric for example. A non-elastic section can be stretched elastically by only small amounts, normally of the order of between 1 to 15%, but typically less than 10%.

Side flaps in accordance with the invention are used in order to attach the first end portion of the absorbent product to the second end portion in order to provide a closed absorbent product. For this purpose, the side flaps are provided with releasable attachment means, preferably in the form of a releasable mechanical fastener of the hook and loop type (e.g. Velcro®). Releasable mechanical fasteners which may be used with the absorbent product of the invention refer to the type of fasteners which can be attached, removed and reattached by simple and slight pressure, but are not intended to include press-studs and buttons.

The side flaps are preferably discrete portions which are fixedly attached, e.g. by welding or adhesive, to the chassis of the absorbent product, whereby the chassis should be understood as being that part of the product which will contain the absorbent core. Typically the chassis will be formed by the liquid permeable top sheet and the liquid impermeable back sheet and any further

sheets therebetween, together with an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and back sheet.

Furthermore the side flaps are preferably used to form
5 the outermost parts of the product which are to conform to the leg opening portions of the product which are formed when the first and second end portions are releasably attached. Thus, in order to provide close conformability to the legs, the lower edge of the side
10 flaps will preferably be curved, substantially starting from a point where the side flaps intersect the longitudinal side margins of the chassis and up to the lowermost point on the side flap outer edge.

15 Brief description of the drawings:

The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to certain non-limiting embodiments thereof and with the aid of the accompanying drawings, in which:

20 Fig. 1 shows an absorbent product in accordance with the invention in a laid flat condition,

Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional view along line II-II in Fig. 1,

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Fig. 3 shows a partial view depicting a corner of an absorbent product including an alternative embodiment of the invention,

30 Fig. 4 shows a view similar to Fig. 3 of a further embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 5 shows an exemplary plan view illustrating a method of applying a pair of side flaps on one
35 side of an absorbent product.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments:

In Fig. 1, the absorbent product 1 comprises a longitudinal axis Y-Y and a lateral axis X-X extending generally perpendicular thereto. In the longitudinal direction, the absorbent product 1 is divided into three portions, a first end portion 2 a middle or crotch portion 3, and a second end portion 4. The first end portion 2 is, in the shown embodiment, intended to be the rear portion of the diaper, i.e. that portion of the absorbent product intended to be located against the wearer's back during use.

The longitudinal axis Y-Y thus passes generally through the mid points of each of these three portions 2, 3, 4.

The absorbent product is shown in plan view with a liquid impermeable back sheet 5 shown uppermost. A liquid permeable top sheet 6 is placed on the opposite side of the back sheet 5 and is preferably co-extensive therewith and sealed to the back sheet 5 at the peripheries of said sheets, e.g. by welding or adhesive (not shown). In between the back sheet 5 and the top sheet 6 is placed an absorbent core 7. The possible structures and materials of the top sheet 6, back sheet 5 and absorbent core 7 can be widely varied, and many possibilities are known in the art. No further description of same is given in this specification, since appropriate structures and materials will be apparent to a skilled person.

In the first end portion 2 and the second end portion 4, there is preferably a first elasticated waist section 8 and a second elasticated waist section 9 respectively. The waist elastic, where present, preferably allows an extension of up to 50% to allow the user's movements,

when standing and sitting for example, to be taken into account whilst still providing a comfortable and well-fitting waist portion. The waist elastic, when present, is preferably located outside the longitudinal limits of the absorbent core 7 so that any bunching together of the absorbent core 7 by the elastic forces in the waist elastic is minimized.

On each side of the first waist section 8 are located a first side flap 10 and a second side flap 11. The side flaps 10, 11 are preferably substantially identical. Most preferred is the arrangement depicted, whereby the first and second side flaps 10, 11 are identical mirror images of one another.

Each side flap 10, 11 has an upper edge 12, 13 located in the shown embodiment substantially in line with the upper edge of the chassis member (i.e. the top edge 14 of the combined top sheet 5 and back sheet 6 in this case). The lower edge 15, 16 of each flap has a curved portion extending from the lowest point 17, 18 of the outer edge 19, 20. The curved portion intersects the chassis along the longitudinal side edges 21, 22 and has a small portion 25, 26 extending laterally up to the inner edge 23, 24.

Longitudinal side edges 21, 22 extend longitudinally from the upper edge 14 of the product and merge into ears or side flaps in the second end portion 4. Leg elastics 27, 28 are positioned proximate the longitudinal side edges 21, 22 of the product and serve to elasticate the leg portions, especially in the crotch region where leakage is most likely to occur. Additionally, the leg elastics preferably extend into a lower non-elastic portion 29, 30 of the side flaps 10, 11.

The lower non-elastic portions 29, 30 respectively extend all the way from the inner edge 23, 24 to the outer edge 19, 20 between the flap lower edge formed by portions 15, 25 and 16, 26 respectively to the lower border 31, 32 of elastic sections 33, 34.

The elastic sections 33, 34 of the side flaps 10, 11 extend, in this embodiment, from the upper edge of the flaps 10, 11 all the way between the inner edge 23, 24 and the outer edge 19, 20 down to the lower border 31, 32 which is aligned with the lower end of the side flap outer edge 17, 18. Thus, the elastic sections in this embodiment are substantially rectangular.

As can be seen, the elastic sections 33, 34 each extend, in a longitudinal direction, only part of the distance between the upper edges 12, 13 and lower edges 15, 25, 16, 26 of the side flaps. The extension of the elastic sections being over only part of the distance is maintained over almost the entire lateral extent (the lateral extent being the lateral distance between the inner edges 23, 24 and outer edges 19, 20) of the side flap. However the elastic section 33, 34 may in some cases be made to coincide with the lower edge 15, 16 at the location of the lower outer end points 17, 18 on the flaps. In that case only at that location would it then extend the whole distance between the upper and lower edges. Thus, in general, it can be stated that at least over a portion of the lateral extent of the side flap (preferably over the majority of the lateral extent and more preferably over the entire extent of the flap) the elastic section 33, 34 will extend (in a longitudinal direction) over only part of the distance between said upper edge and said lower edge.

The elastic sections 33, 34 each comprises an elastic material 35 such as an elastic lamina (see Fig. 2). For reasons of comfort and use, the elastic material 35 is located adjacent and fixedly attached to at least one layer (e.g. layer 36), or more preferably between two laminae or layers 36, 37 of a non-elastic material. The fixed attachment of the elastic material 35 to the layer(s) can be performed for example by means of adhesive and/or welding.

A preferred material for layers 36 and/or 37 is a non-elastic fibrous material, preferably a nonwoven material made of either continuous filaments (spunbonded) or carded staple fibres (thermobonded, through-air bonded or hydroentangled). Also, nonwoven made of meltblown short fibres may be used. Additionally, nonwovens made by a combination of these technologies may be used. A nonwoven material such as S-M-S material (spunbond-meltblown-spunbond material) may be used for example.

In order that the flap is elasticated by use of the elastic material, the elastic material 35 may for example first be stretched to its required lateral extent in use (e.g. 200%) and then attached in its stretched state to one or more non-elastic material layers, such as layers 36, 37. Thus each of the non-elastic layers 36, 37 may extend over the whole area of the side flap 10, 11, while the elastic material 35 only extends in the area which is to form the elastic section 33, 34. Since significant areas of the side flaps now lack elastic material, which is expensive, large cost savings can be made.

Since however non-elastic nonwoven material may elongate when a pulling force is applied (even though the elastic

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recovery is very low), the elastic material does not have to be fixed under its maximum elongation in order to achieve sufficient elastic properties in the side flap. Certain non-elastic nonwoven materials can for example have a very high rate of extensibility in the lateral direction, such that if these highly extensible yet non-elastic nonwoven materials are used as layer 36 and/or layer 37, the elastic material can even be fixed at zero stretch to the non-elastic material.

Other ways of using elastic material to elasticate the side flaps are also known in the art, such as the use of an activatable elastic material which is non-elastic until heated. Upon heating, the material becomes elastic. Such materials are known in the art and thus not described further here. Such materials may also be used in this invention.

As will be understood from the foregoing, the lower edges 15, 16, which form at least part of the leg openings, will thus be non-elastic but will still be gathered when the elastic zones 33, 34 are in a relaxed condition. However, it has been found that the use of elastic in this area is not generally required to give good comfort and fit, and the general extension of the side flaps 10, 11 in order to close the waist area of the product is generally sufficient to accomplish this purpose. However, at the area proximate where the lower edges 15, 16 of the side flaps 10, 11 intersect the longitudinal edges 21, 22, the leg elastics 27, 28 may be extended into the side flaps and fixedly attached to the non-elastic sections 29, 30 of the side flaps 10, 11. Even though some elastic material is then present in the non-elastic sections of the side flaps, the leg elastics are however generally strands of moulded rubber (e.g. of

the type known as Fullflex®), or elastic film which have a width of some 2 to 6 mm, thus making these considerably cheaper when compared to making the entire side flaps elastic as in prior art solutions.

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The leg elastics 27, 28, when present, may extend several cm, e.g. between one and eight cm, into the side flaps. These leg elastics 27, 28 should preferably follow the curvature of the lower edges 15, 25, 16, 26 over at least part of their length and at least over part of the curved portion.

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The inner edges 23, 24 of the side flaps 10, 11 preferably lie laterally inwardly of the longitudinal edges 21, 22 to provide an overlap, typically by an amount of between 0.5 and 6 cm. The length of inner edges 23, 24 in the longitudinal direction may lie for example between 4 cm up to 25 cm. The overlap is used to provide a joining area of the chassis (i.e. the joined top 6 and back sheet 5 in this case) to the side flaps 10, 11. In the embodiment shown, the side flaps 10, 11 are each affixed to the outwardly facing side of the back sheet 5. However, it will be apparent that the side flaps 10, 11 may be positioned such that they are affixed to the top sheet 6, or to both the top sheet 6 and the back sheet 5. The side flaps 10, 11 may be joined for example such that each side flap 10, 11 is held between the top sheet 6 and back sheet 5, or such that the top sheet 6 and back sheet 5 are themselves sandwiched between, and fixedly attached to, inner edge portions (i.e. overlapped portions) of separate layers of material (e.g. layers 36, 37) making up the side flaps. Similarly, embodiments are possible where only one of the layers of the side flaps 10, 11 is fixedly attached between the top sheet 6 and back sheet 5, while another layer of the side flap 10, 11 could be

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attached to an outwardly facing surface of the top sheet 6 or back sheet 5.

5 On the outer edge portion of side flaps 10, 11 are positioned a first part 40, 41 of a releasable fastening means, in particular a mechanical releasable fastening means (e.g. a hook or loop tab member). The means is on the lower (inner) side of the side flap 10, 11 in the view shown in Fig. 1. At the second end portion 4 of the
10 absorbent product 1, there are two portions 42, 43 (e.g. of loop material, nonwoven material or hook member material) which co-operate with a respective one of said fastening means 40, 41. Such releasable attachments are well known to the skilled person and thus no further
15 detailed description is provided here.

The two portions 42, 43 could however be replaced by a single attachment portion extending over the central part of the second end portion 4.

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Fig. 2 shows the side flap 10 in cross-section, whereby a laminate structure is present. The central material, or central lamina, is an elastic material 35 having an upper edge or border 38. In the embodiment shown, the
25 longitudinal distance "a" (cf. Fig. 1) is equal to the longitudinal length of the elastic material, which is constant throughout the side flap of this embodiment and thus corresponds substantially to the length of outer edge 19, 20. The distance "a" will typically lie between
30 4cm and 12 cm. The elastic material 35 is sandwiched between and fixed to layers 36, 37 of non-elastic material, such as nonwoven material. The non-elastic material layer(s) preferably extend over the whole surface area of the side flaps 10, 11.

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Material layers 36, 37 are shown as single laminae or plies, although it should be understood that each of these layers may comprise more than one lamina or ply (such as in the case of S-M-S materials mentioned above).

5 The various layers may be held together by any suitable means such as welding, in particular ultrasonic welding, or adhesive, or by mechanical methods such as needling, or other methods.

10 The upper border 38 of the elastic material 35 lies at substantially the same level as the upper edge 12, 13 of the side flap and is co-extensive therewith. In this way the entire area from the upper edge 12, 13 to the lower end points 17, 18 of the outer edges is an elastic
15 section and can be extended elastically.

In Fig. 3, a further embodiment is disclosed, in which the elastic material 335 is highlighted. The elastic material 335 is thus used to elasticate the side flap
20 over an area 333. This area 333 extends from a location laterally outwardly of inner edge 323 and also preferably laterally outwardly of longitudinal side edge 321. In this way, use of elastic material is further optimised, since the area of joining of the side flap 310 to the
25 chassis (i.e. the overlap area between edge 323 and edge 321) requires no elastication. In this embodiment, the elastic section 333 does not extend to the upper edge 312 but has its upper border 338 located below same (e.g. 0.3 to 1 cm below edge 312). The side flap 310 however still
30 remains elastic over the majority of its upper area between outer edge 319 and longitudinal side edge 321. The distance between the upper border 338 and the upper edge 312 should however not be too large since otherwise rollover effects at the top edge 312 may occur with
35 resulting lack of comfort.

A small border area may also be left between outer edge 344 of the elastic section 333 and the outer edge 319 of the side flap. This border area may be between 0.3 cm and 3 cm for example. The use of a border area means that the outer edge portion of the side flap is not elastically extensible. However, since (as explained in regard to Fig. 1) releasable fastening means (e.g. means 40) are attached at this location, elasticity at this location is not required. Thus further elastic material can be saved.

Fig. 4 shows a still further embodiment, in which the elastic material 435 occupies a somewhat larger longitudinal extent than that in Fig. 1. The elastic material namely extends longitudinally below a level defined by the lower end 417 of the outer edge 419. Such an embodiment thus provides elastication of most of the outer curved part of the lower edge 415 with only a small increase in longitudinal extent of the elastic material 435. Similarly, the leg elastic 427 extends partially into the non-elastic portion 429 of the side flap and thus elastication of almost the entire curved portion of the lower edge is provided, while still saving large amounts of elastic material.

Fig. 5 shows a plan view of a stage of production of the absorbent articles of the present invention. A web of e.g. back sheet 505 material is fed in the direction of arrow B. The part of the web shown depicts absorbent products being made in longitudinal production back-to-back and front-to-front. Thus, line 553 depicts an intended cut line defining the location of two second end portions 504, 504a on either side of the intended cut line 553. Similarly, two first end portions 502, 502a are depicted on either side of an imaginary cut line 554.

A machine (not shown) applies a single piece of fabric comprising two combined side flaps 510, 510a containing a single piece of stretched elastic material here denoted
5 as 535, 535a. The single piece of fabric is laid substantially symmetrically across intended cut line 554, on either side of which cut line 554 two first end portions 502, 502a will be created.

10 A single piece of fabric is applied to only one side edge 521 in the embodiment shown, although it will be understood that a similar piece of fabric must be applied to the opposite side, at the same location substantially
15 symmetrically about the intended cut line 554 so as to form the side flaps at the opposite side edge 522. Such can occur later, earlier, or at the same time as single fabric piece (comprising 510, 510a) is applied at edge 521.

20 At a later station (not shown) the web is cut successively at lines 554 and then 553, such that individual products result. The described embodiment is a preferred embodiment of a method for carrying out the invention, which results in time savings due to only
25 single pieces of fabric being required from which two side flaps are made. This also results in a product where the end edges (compare to end edge 14 in Fig. 1) are aligned exactly with the upper edges (compare to edges 12, 13 in Fig. 1) of the side flaps, thus providing a
30 neat and attractive product with no trimming required. However it will be understood that each of the side flaps 510, 510a could be pre-formed as separate pieces and applied and attached separately to the back sheet and/or top sheet of such products.

Further embodiments will be readily understood by the skilled person upon reading the foregoing and are intended to be encompassed within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

5

CLAIMS

10

1. Absorbent product (1) for absorbing human exudate, comprising a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and a lateral axis (X-X) extending generally perpendicular thereto, further comprising a first end portion (2), wherein said first end portion (2) comprises two side flaps (10, 11) each extending laterally outwardly with respect to said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) on either side of a waist section (8), wherein each of said side flaps (10, 11) includes an upper edge (12, 13) and a lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26), said upper and lower edges being separated, and wherein each of said side flaps (10, 11) further comprises an elastic section (33, 34) distinct from any elastic in said waist section (8), characterized in that at least over a portion of the lateral extent of the side flap (10, 11), said elastic section (33, 34) extends, in a longitudinal direction (Y-Y), over only part of the distance between said upper edge (12, 13) and said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26), and in that a non-elastic section (29, 30) extends between a lower border (31, 32) of said elastic section (33, 34) and said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26).

2. An absorbent product according to claim 1, characterized in that said side flap further comprises an inner edge (23, 24) and an outer edge (19, 20), said inner edge being longer than said outer edge, and in that

35

said non-elastic section (29, 30) extends, longitudinally, from said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26) up to a level aligned with a lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

5

3. An absorbent product according to claim 2, characterized in that said elastic section (33, 34) extends, longitudinally, substantially the entire distance between the upper edge (12, 13) of said side flap (10, 11) and the lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

10

Fig. 1 of 2, intentional (copy) fig. 1 is not included

4. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 25) of said side flap has at least one curved portion (15, 16) extending between said inner edge (23, 24) and said outer edge (19, 20).

15

5. An absorbent product according to claim 4, characterized in that said curved portion (15, 16) extends part of the way between said inner edge (23, 24) and the lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

20

6. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said absorbent product (1) further comprises a liquid-permeable top sheet (6) and a liquid-impermeable back sheet (5), and in that each of said side flaps (10, 11) is a discrete member, fixedly attached at a longitudinal side edge (21, 22) portion of said top sheet (6) and/or said back sheet (5).

25

30

7. An absorbent product according to claim 6, characterized in that said upper edge (12, 13) is substantially aligned with an upper edge (14) of said top sheet (6) and/or said back sheet (5).

5

8. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that each of said side flaps (10, 11) comprises an elastic laminate including an elastic material lamina (35) fixedly attached in an at least laterally elongated condition between two laminae (36, 37) of nonwoven material, preferably hydrophobic nonwoven material.

10

9. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one elastic member (27, 28), forming part of an elasticated leg portion on one respective side of said absorbent product, extends into the non-elastic section (29, 30) of said side flap on said respective side.

15

20

10. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said elastic section (10, 11) is substantially rectangular, and in that said elastic section (10, 11) includes an upper border (38), and in that said upper border (38) is aligned with an upper edge (39) of said side flap (10, 11).

25

30

24

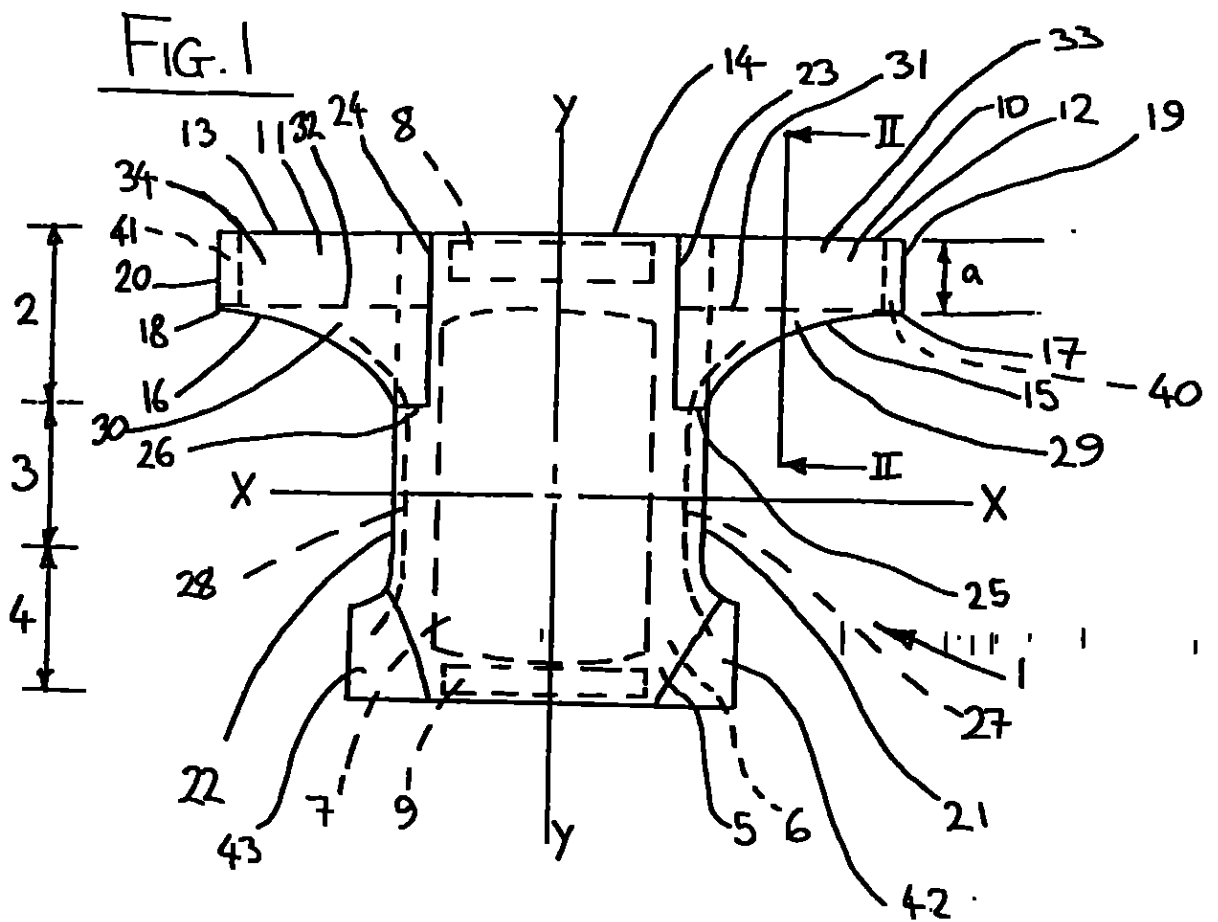
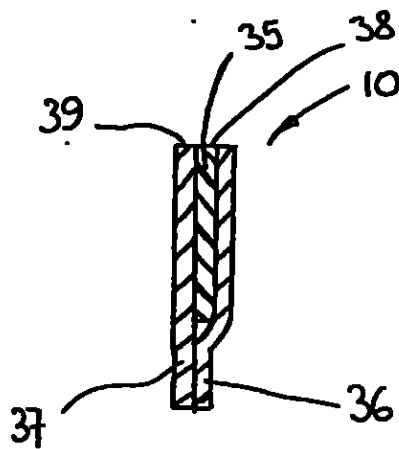


FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3

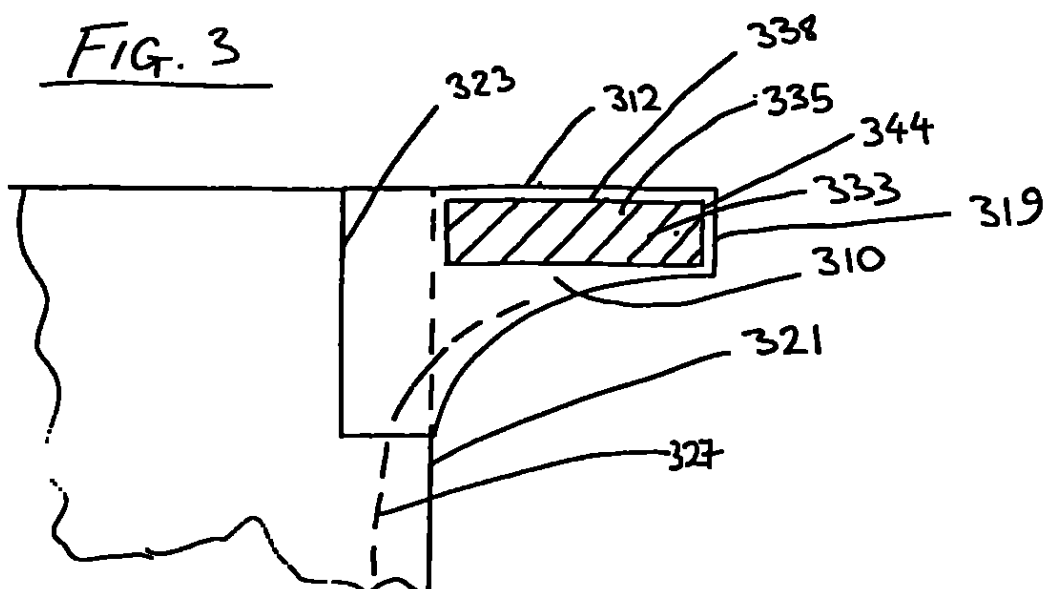


FIG. 4

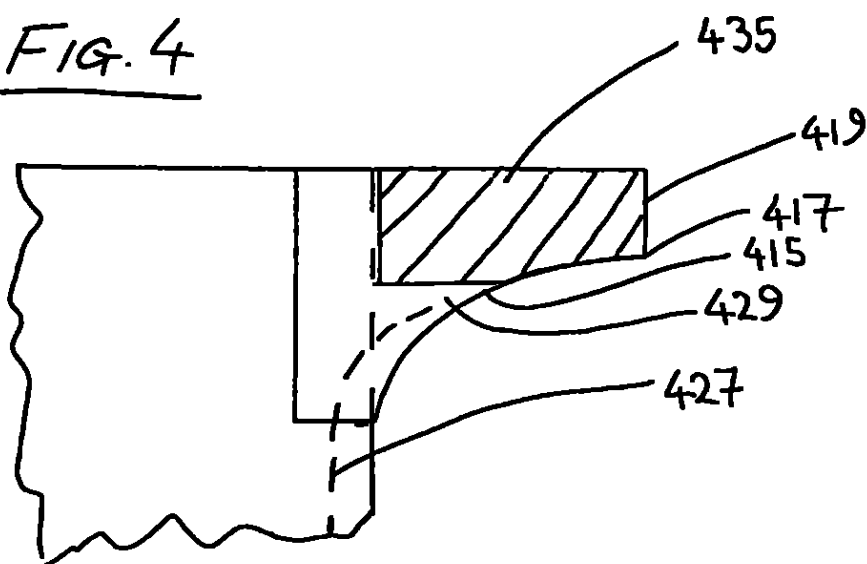
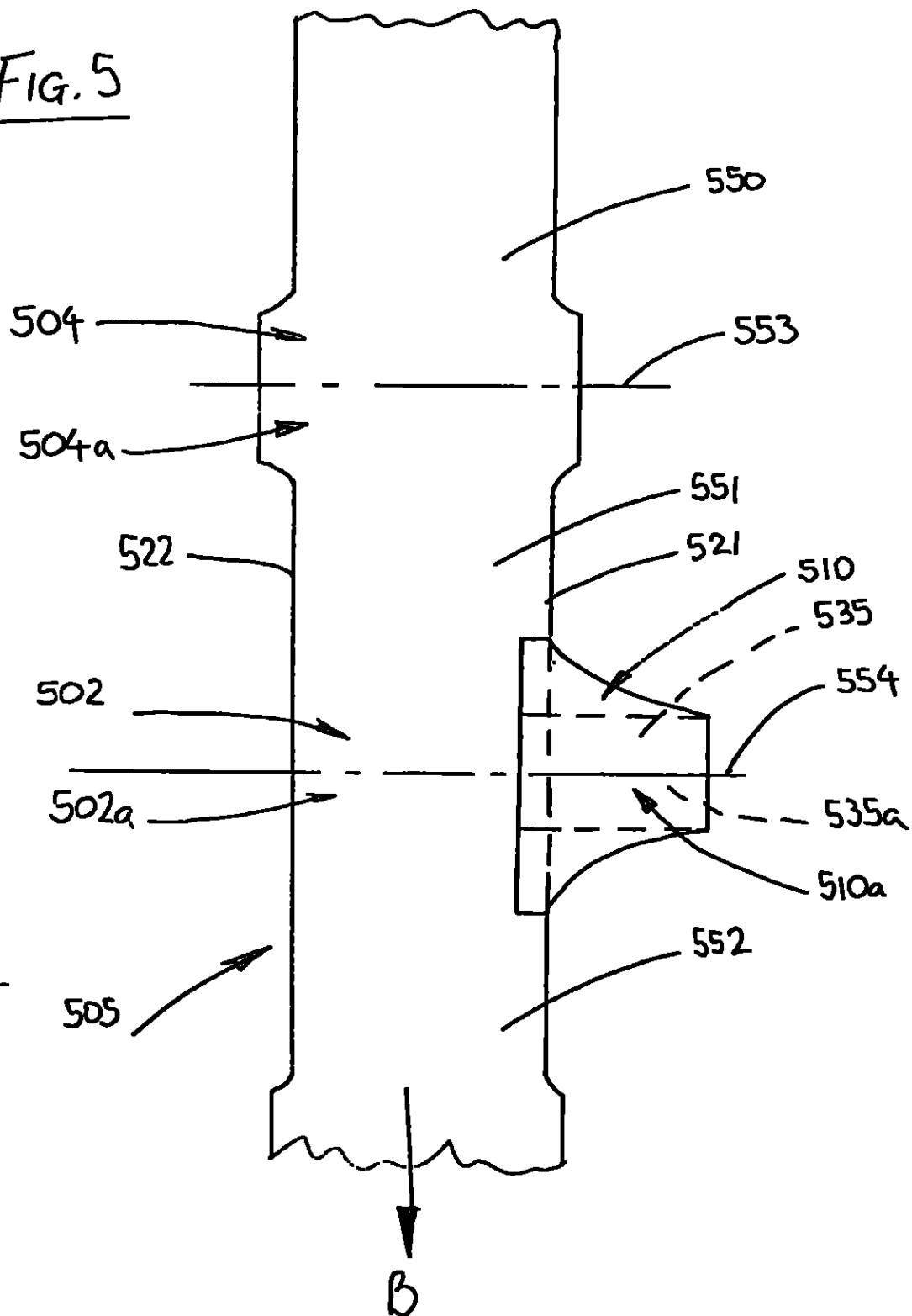


FIG. 5



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

nw
SSE - 20-11-03 - added to the report cover 27From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

10 Nov. 2003

To:

Harrison, Michael C.
ALBIHNS GmbH
Grasserstrasse 10
80339 MÜNCHEN
ALLEMAGNENOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT
OF DEMAND BY COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY(PCT Rules 59.3(e) and 61.1(b), first sentence
and Administrative Instructions, Section 601(a))Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

06-11-2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P 001 629 PC

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/03381

International filing date (day/month/year)

01/04/2003

Priority date (day/month/year)

02/04/2002

Applicant

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority considers the following date as the date of receipt of the demand for international preliminary examination of the international application:

24/10/2003

2. This date of receipt is:

- ☒ the actual date of receipt of the demand by this Authority (Rule 61.1(b)).
☐ the actual date of receipt of the demand on behalf of this Authority (Rule 59.3(e)).
☐ the date on which this Authority has, in response to the invitation to correct defects in the demand (Form PCT/IPEA/404), received the required corrections.

3. ☐ **ATTENTION:** That date of receipt is **AFTER** the expiration of 19 months from the priority date. Consequently, the election(s) made in the demand does (do) not have the effect of postponing the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)). Therefore, the acts for entry into the national phase must be performed within 20 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 22). For details, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

- ☐ (if applicable) This notification confirms the information given by telephone, facsimile transmission or in person on: _____

4. Only where paragraph 3 applies, a copy of this notification has been sent to the International Bureau.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Netherlands
Tel.: (+31-70) 340-2040
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

DEKKER M F H

Tel. (+31-70) 340-4046



The demand must be filed directly with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority or, if two or more Authorities are competent, with the one chosen by the applicant. The full name or two-letter code of that Authority may be indicated by the applicant on the line below:

IPEA/ EP

PCT

CHAPTER II

DEMAND

under Article 31 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:
The undersigned requests that the international application specified below be the subject of international preliminary examination according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and hereby elects all eligible States (except where otherwise indicated).

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only		
Identification of IPEA		Date of receipt of DEMAND
Box No. I IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION		Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC
International application No. PCT/EP03/03381	International filing date (day/month/year) 01 April 2003 (01.04.03)	(Earliest) Priority date (day/month/year) 02 April 2002 (02.04.02)
Title of invention ABSORBENT PRODUCT SIDE FLAP ARRANGEMENT		
Box No. II APPLICANT(S)		
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.) SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB S-405 03 Göteborg Sweden		Telephone No.
		Facsimile No.
		Teleprinter No.
		Applicant's registration No. with the Office
State (that is, country) of nationality: SE		State (that is, country) of residence: SE
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence:
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence:
☐ Further applicants are indicated on a continuation sheet.		

Sheet No. 2

International application No.
PCT/EP03/03381**Box No. III AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE**The following person is ☒ agent ☐ common representativeand ☒ has been appointed earlier and represents the applicant(s) also for international preliminary examination.☐ is hereby appointed and any earlier appointment of (an) agent(s)/common representative is hereby revoked.☐ is hereby appointed, specifically for the procedure before the International Preliminary Examining Authority, in addition to the agent(s)/common representative appointed earlier.Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation.
The address must include postal code and name of country.)HARRISON, Michael Charles
ALBIHNS GmbH
Grasserstrasse 10,
80339 München
Germany

Telephone No.

+49 (0)89 5440 3581

Facsimile No.

+49 (0)89 5440 3583

Teleprinter No.

Agent's registration No. with the Office

☐ Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.**Box No. IV BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION****Statement concerning amendments:***

1. The applicant wishes the international preliminary examination to start on the basis of:

☒ the international application as originally filedthe description ☒ as originally filed☐ as amended under Article 34the claims ☒ as originally filed☐ as amended under Article 19 (together with any accompanying statement)☐ as amended under Article 34the drawings ☒ as originally filed☐ as amended under Article 342. ☐ The applicant wishes any amendment to the claims under Article 19 to be considered as reversed.3. ☐ The applicant wishes the start of the international preliminary examination to be postponed until the expiration of 20 months from the priority date unless the International Preliminary Examining Authority receives a copy of any amendments made under Article 19 or a notice from the applicant that he does not wish to make such amendments (Rule 69.1(d)). (This check-box may be marked only where the time limit under Article 19 has not yet expired.)

* Where no check-box is marked, international preliminary examination will start on the basis of the international application as originally filed or, where a copy of amendments to the claims under Article 19 and/or amendments of the international application under Article 34 are received by the International Preliminary Examining Authority before it has begun to draw up a written opinion or the international preliminary examination report, as so amended.

Language for the purposes of international preliminary examination: ENGLISH☒ which is the language in which the international application was filed.☐ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search.☐ which is the language of publication of the international application.☐ which is the language of the translation (to be) furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination.**Box No. V ELECTION OF STATES**

The applicant hereby elects all eligible States (that is, all States which have been designated and which are bound by Chapter II of the PCT)

excluding the following States which the applicant wishes not to elect:

Sheet No. 3.

International application No.
PCT/EP03/03381

Box No. VI CHECK LIST

The demand is accompanied by the following elements, in the language referred to in Box No. IV, for the purposes of international preliminary examination:

- | | | |
|--|---|--------|
| 1. translation of international application | : | sheets |
| 2. amendments under Article 34 | : | sheets |
| 3. copy (or, where required, translation) of amendments under Article 19 | : | sheets |
| 4. copy (or, where required, translation) of statement under Article 19 | : | sheets |
| 5. letter | : | sheets |
| 6. other (specify) | : | sheets |

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

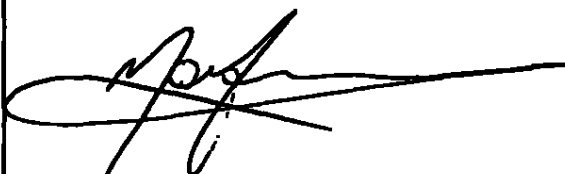
- | received | not received |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |

The demand is also accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ☒ fee calculation sheet | 5. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature |
| 2. ☐ original separate power of attorney | 6. ☐ sequence listings in computer readable form |
| 3. ☐ original general power of attorney | 7. ☐ tables in computer readable form related to sequence listings |
| 4. ☐ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: | 8. ☐ other (specify): |

Box No. VII SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the demand).


HARRISON, Michael, Charles,

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

1. Date of actual receipt of DEMAND:

2. Adjusted date of receipt of demand due to CORRECTIONS under Rule 60.1(b):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. ☐ The date of receipt of the demand is AFTER the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and item 4 or 5, below, does not apply. | ☐ The applicant has been informed accordingly. |
| 4. ☐ The date of receipt of the demand is WITHIN the period of 19 months from the priority date as extended by virtue of Rule 80.5. | |
| 5. ☐ Although the date of receipt of the demand is after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, the delay in arrival is EXCUSED pursuant to Rule 82. | |

For International Bureau use only

Demand received from IPEA on:

PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Demand

International application No. PCT/EP03/03381 Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB	For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only Date stamp of the IPEA								
CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES 1. Preliminary examination fee 1.530 P 2. Handling fee (<i>Applicants from certain States are entitled to a reduction of 75% of the handling fee. Where the applicant is (or all applicants are) so entitled, the amount to be entered at H is 25% of the handling fee.</i>) 159 H 3. Total of prescribed fees Add the amounts entered at P and H and enter total in the TOTAL box..... 1.689 TOTAL									
MODE OF PAYMENT <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>☒ authorization to charge deposit account with the IPEA (see below)</td> <td>☐ cash</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ cheque</td> <td>☐ revenue stamps</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ postal money order</td> <td>☐ coupons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ bank draft</td> <td>☐ other (specify):</td> </tr> </table>		☒ authorization to charge deposit account with the IPEA (see below)	☐ cash	☐ cheque	☐ revenue stamps	☐ postal money order	☐ coupons	☐ bank draft	☐ other (specify):
☒ authorization to charge deposit account with the IPEA (see below)	☐ cash								
☐ cheque	☐ revenue stamps								
☐ postal money order	☐ coupons								
☐ bank draft	☐ other (specify):								
AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE (OR CREDIT) DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (<i>This mode of payment may not be available at all IPEAs</i>) <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ☒ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above. ☒ (<i>This check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the IPEA so permit</i>) Authorization to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above. </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> IPEA/ <u>EP</u> Deposit Account No.: <u>2800.0801</u> Date: <u>23 October 2003</u> Name: <u>HARRISON, Michael, Charles</u> Signature:  </td> </tr> </table>		☒ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above. ☒ (<i>This check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the IPEA so permit</i>) Authorization to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above.	IPEA/ <u>EP</u> Deposit Account No.: <u>2800.0801</u> Date: <u>23 October 2003</u> Name: <u>HARRISON, Michael, Charles</u> Signature: 						
☒ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above. ☒ (<i>This check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the IPEA so permit</i>) Authorization to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above.	IPEA/ <u>EP</u> Deposit Account No.: <u>2800.0801</u> Date: <u>23 October 2003</u> Name: <u>HARRISON, Michael, Charles</u> Signature: 								

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

12. Mai 2003 32

NW

SSR-26-5-03

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PCT

From the RECEIVING OFFICE

To:

Harrison, Michael C.
ALBIHNS GMBH
Grasserstrasse 10
D-80339 Munich
ALLEMAGNE

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION NUMBER AND OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

(PCT Rule 20.5(c))

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

09. 05. 2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P 001 629 PC

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/ 03381

International filing date (day/month/year)

01/04/2003

Priority date (day/month/year)

02/04/2002

Applicant

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

Title of the invention

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international application has been accorded the international application number and the international filing date indicated above.
2. The applicant is further notified that the record copy of the international application was transmitted to the International Bureau on the above date of mailing.

3.

☐

Other: _____

* The International Bureau monitors the transmittal of the record copy by the receiving Office and will notify the applicant (with Form PCT/IB/301) of its receipt. Should the record copy not have been received by the expiration of 14 months from the priority date, the International Bureau will notify the applicant (Rule 22.1(c)).

Name and mailing address of the Receiving Office



European Patent Office, P.O. 3818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

N. MAILLIARD
Tel.: (070) 340.28.55
The Hague

N. Mailliard

PCT REQUEST

P 001 629 PC

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 01.04.2003 11:16:12 AM

0	For receiving Office use only	
0-1	International Application No.	PCT/EP 03 / 03 38 1
0-2	International Filing Date	(01 04 2003) 01 APR 2003
0-3	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"	OFFICE EUROPEEN DES BREVETS DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE PCT
0-4	Form - PCT/RO/101 PCT Request	
0-4-1	Prepared using	PCT-EASY Version 2.92 (updated 01.01.2003)
0-5	Petition The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty	
0-6	Receiving Office (specified by the applicant)	European Patent Office (EPO) (RO/EP)
0-7	Applicant's or agent's file reference	P 001 629 PC
I	Title of invention	ABSORBENT PRODUCT SIDE FLAP ARRANGEMENT
II	Applicant	
II-1	This person is:	applicant only
II-2	Applicant for	all designated States
II-4	Name	SCA Hygiene Products AB
II-5	Address:	S-40503 Göteborg Sweden
II-6	State of nationality	SE
II-7	State of residence	SE
III-1	Applicant and/or inventor	
III-1-1	This person is:	inventor only
III-1-4	Name (LAST, First)	JOHANSSON, Mikael,
III-1-5	Address:	Eskilsgatan 42 S-432-42 Varberg Sweden

PCT REQUEST

P 001 629 PC

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 01.04.2003 11:16:12 AM

IV-1	Agent or common representative; or address for correspondence The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	agent
IV-1-1	Name (LAST, First)	HARRISON, Michael, C.
IV-1-2	Address:	Albihns GmbH Grasserstrasse 10 D-80339 München Germany
IV-1-3	Telephone No.	+49 (0)89 544 03581
IV-1-4	Facsimile No.	+49 (0)89 544 03583
IV-1-5	e-mail	info.munich@albihns.de
IV-2	Additional agent(s)	additional agent(s) with same address as first named agent
IV-2-1	Name(s)	GRAY, Helen, M
V	Designation of States	
V-1	Regional Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AP: GH GM KE LS MW MZ SD SL SZ TZ UG ZM ZW and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT EA: AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT EP: AT BE BG CH&LI CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL PT SE SI SK TR and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT OA: BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN GQ GW ML MR NE SN TD TG and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT
V-2	National Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AE AG AL AM AT (patent and utility model) AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY BZ CA CH&LI CN CO CR CU CZ (patent and utility model) DE (patent and utility model) DK (patent and utility model) DM DZ EC EE (patent and utility model) ES FI (patent and utility model) GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MA MD MG MK MN MW MX MZ NI NO NZ OM PH PL PT RO RU SC SD SE SG SK (patent and utility model) SL TJ TM TN TR TT TZ UA UG UZ VC VN YU ZA ZM ZW

PCT REQUEST

P 001 629 PC

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 01.04.2003 11:18:12 AM

V-5	Precautionary Designation Statement In addition to the designations made under items V-1, V-2 and V-3, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) of the State(s) indicated under item V-6 below. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit.	
V-6	Exclusion(s) from precautionary designations	NONE
VI-1	Priority claim of earlier regional application	
VI-1-1	Filing date	02 April 2002 (02.04.2002)
VI-1-2	Number	02007498.5
VI-1-3	Regional Office	EP
VI-2	Priority document request The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):	VI-1
VII-1	International Searching Authority Chosen	European Patent Office (EPO) (ISA/EP)
VII-2	Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search	
VII-2-1	Date	01 October 2002 (01.10.2002)
VII-2-2	Number	02007498.5
VII-2-3	Country (or regional Office)	EP
VIII	Declarations	Number of declarations
VIII-1	Declaration as to the identity of the inventor	-
VIII-2	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent	-
VIII-3	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application	-
VIII-4	Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)	-
VIII-5	Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty	-

36

4/4

PCT REQUEST

P 001 629 PC

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 01.04.2003 11:16:12 AM

IX	Check list	number of sheets	electronic file(s) attached
IX-1	Request (including declaration sheets)	4	-
IX-2	Description	17	-
IX-3	Claims	3	-
IX-4	Abstract	1	EZABST00.TXT
IX-5	Drawings	3	-
IX-7	TOTAL	28	
	Accompanying items	paper document(s) attached	electronic file(s) attached
IX-8	Fee calculation sheet	✓	-
IX-17	PCT-EASY diskette	-	Diskette
IX-19	Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract	1	
IX-20	Language of filing of the international application	English	
X-1	Signature of applicant, agent or common representative		
X-1-1	Name (LAST, First)	HARRISON, Michael, C.	

FOR RECEIVING OFFICE USE ONLY

10-1	Date of actual receipt of the purported international application	01 APR 2003 (01.04.03)
10-2	Drawings:	✓
10-2-1	Received	
10-2-2	Not received	
10-3	Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application	
10-4	Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2)	
10-5	International Searching Authority	ISA/EP
10-6	Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

FOR INTERNATIONAL BUREAU USE ONLY

11-1	Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

SSR - 20-11-03
K2/1015-06-12-03
SSF-06-01-04
05. Nov. 2003
37

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

To:

ALBIHNS GmbH
Attn. Harrison, Michael C.
Grasserstrasse 10
80339 MÜNCHEN
GERMANY

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

06/11/2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P 001 629 PC

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/03381

International filing date
(day/month/year)

01/04/2003

Applicant

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Further action(s): The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the International application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the International application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for International publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for International preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 6818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Alicja Van der Heijden

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 18 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been filed, see below.

How?

Either by canceling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequences with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/03381	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/04/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 02/04/2002
Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 05 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/03381

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F13/15

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	EP 1 319 380 A (UNI CHARM CORP) 18 June 2003 (2003-06-18) paragraphs '0006!', '0009!'-'0015!; claims 1,3; figures 1-6	1,6,7,10
X	US 5 531 729 A (COLES PETER ET AL) 2 July 1996 (1996-07-02) figures 1-2B column 3, line 54 -column 4, line 4 column 5, line 39-42 column 6, line 8-17 column 7, line 32-66 column 9, line 27-35 column 13, line 14-17	1-7,10
Y		8
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

A document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Joly, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/03381

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 21412 A (HEKI YUKIO ;PROCTER & GAMBLE (US)) 18 July 1996 (1996-07-18) figures 1,6,26,32 page 9, line 30-36 page 10, line 13-31 page 11, line 19 -page 12, line 2 page 18, line 5-7	1,4-7
Y	FR 2 734 712 A (PROTECO) 6 December 1996 (1996-12-06) page 2, line 21-29 page 3, line 17-22 page 7, line 5-26 figures 1,2,4	8
A	GB 2 292 067 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 14 February 1996 (1996-02-14) page 48, line 34-37 figures 21-26	9
A	WO 98 29080 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 9 July 1998 (1998-07-09) figures 5,6	9
A	US 5 624 420 A (BRIDGES RUSSELL P ET AL) 29 April 1997 (1997-04-29) figures 7,8 column 11, line 27-39 column 15, line 53 -column 16, line 8	9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/03381

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1319380	A	18-06-2003	JP 2003180745 A CN 1424004 A EP 1319380 A2 US 2003114828 A1	02-07-2003 18-06-2003 18-06-2003 19-06-2003
US 5531729	A	02-07-1996	AT 203889 T AU 677182 B2 AU 3799893 A CA 2132415 A1 CZ 9402340 A3 DE 69330560 D1 DE 69330560 T2 EG 19980 A EP 0639066 A1 ES 2159292 T3 FI 944427 A HU 75617 A2 JP 3392416 B2 JP 7505299 T KR 266193 B1 MX 9301654 A1 NO 943539 A WO 9318729 A1	15-08-2001 17-04-1997 21-10-1993 30-09-1993 15-02-1995 13-09-2001 29-05-2002 31-10-1996 22-02-1995 01-10-2001 23-09-1994 28-05-1997 31-03-2003 15-06-1995 15-09-2000 29-07-1994 23-09-1994 30-09-1993
WO 9621412	A	18-07-1996	JP 3162592 B2 JP 8191860 A AT 180661 T AU 4451099 A AU 4656896 A BR 9606908 A CA 2209913 A1 CN 1173813 A DE 69602715 D1 DE 69602715 T2 EP 0802778 A2 ES 2132883 T3 KR 244615 B1 WO 9621412 A2 US 6200299 B1	08-05-2001 30-07-1996 15-06-1999 14-10-1999 31-07-1996 21-10-1997 18-07-1996 18-02-1998 08-07-1999 02-12-1999 29-10-1997 16-08-1999 01-05-2000 18-07-1996 13-03-2001
FR 2734712	A	06-12-1996	FR 2734712 A1	06-12-1996
GB 2292067	A	14-02-1996	AU 3127395 A BR 9508567 A CA 2130968 A1 CZ 9700406 A3 EP 0776187 A1 FR 2724110 A1 HU 77164 A2 JP 11502427 T PL 318589 A1 SK 17597 A3 TR 960135 A2 WO 9604873 A1 US 2001000370 A1 US 2001000371 A1 ZA 9506669 A	07-03-1996 12-08-1997 13-02-1996 11-06-1997 04-06-1997 08-03-1996 02-03-1998 02-03-1999 23-06-1997 08-10-1997 21-06-1996 22-02-1996 26-04-2001 26-04-2001 20-03-1996

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/03381

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9829080	A	09-07-1998	AT 225153 T	15-10-2002
			AU 5902798 A	31-07-1998
			BR 9713646 A	11-04-2000
			CN 1248902 A	29-03-2000
			DE 69716140 D1	07-11-2002
			DE 69716140 T2	06-02-2003
			EP 1011582 A1	28-06-2000
			JP 2001526555 T	18-12-2001
			WO 9829080 A1	09-07-1998
			ZA 9711604 A	23-03-2000
US 5624420	A	29-04-1997	AU 7059994 A	17-01-1995
			CA 2165288 A1	05-01-1995
			DE 69418713 D1	01-07-1999
			DE 69418713 T2	11-11-1999
			EP 0705088 A1	10-04-1996
			ES 2131691 T3	01-08-1999
			JP 8511709 T	10-12-1996
			SG 86292 A1	19-02-2002
			WO 9500096 A1	05-01-1995

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: Harrison, Michael C. ALBIHNS GmbH Grasserstrasse 10 80339 MÜNCHEN ALLEMAGNE		PCT 9. Jan 2004 SSR: 2/2-04 Ks/Ass: 15/2-04 SSF: 15/3-04 (PCT Rule 66) WRITTEN OPINION	
		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 15.01.2004	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC		REPLY DUE within 2 month(s) from the above date of mailing	
International application No. PCT/EP 0303381	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.04.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 02.04.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F13/15			
Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB			

1. This written opinion is the first drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

I	☒	Basis of the opinion
II	☐	Priority
III	☐	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	☐	Lack of unity of invention
V	☒	Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(II) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	☐	Certain documents cited
VII	☐	Certain defects in the international application
VIII	☐	Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

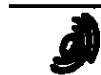
When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
 For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
 For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 02.08.2004

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
 Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Joly, F

Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits)
 Dekker, M
 Telephone No. +31 70 340-4048



WRITTEN OPINION

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/03381**

I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, Pages

1-17 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, Figures

1/1-55 as originally filed

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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WRITTEN OPINION

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/03381**

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(II) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-7,10
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	8
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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**WRITTEN OPINION
SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP03/03381

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE TR LI

Description, pages:

1-17 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, No.:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

1) PRIOR ART DOCUMENTS

The following documents (D1-D3) are referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: US-A-5 531 729

D2: WO 96 21412 A

D3: FR-A-2 734 712

2) ART 33(2) PCT - NOVELTY

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article ART 33(2) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-7,10 is not new in the sense of Article ART 33(2) PCT.

2.1) The document D1 discloses:

(cf D1: figures 3-4, column 3 line 54- column 4 line 4, column 6 lines 8-17, the references in parentheses applying to D1)

an absorbent article comprising two side panels (55), each comprising an elastic member (21) (23), which are distinct from the waist elastic members (67) and (67'). The elastic members (21) (23) are surrounded by a non-elastic portion as the backsheet and the topsheet are inelastic.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not new (Article ART 33(2) PCT).

**WRITTEN OPINION
SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP03/03381

2.2) The subject-matter of the dependent claims 2-7,10 is not new in the light of D1 (*cf. figures 1-4, column 9 lines 27-35, column 13 lines 14-17*).
? جدل. نزل

2.3) D2 also discloses the features of claims 1,4-7 (*cf. figures 1,6,26,32, page 9 lines 30-36, page 10 lines 13-31, page 11 line 19- page 12 line 2, page 18 lines 5-7*).

3) ART 33(3) PCT - INVENTIVE STEP

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT, because the subject-matter of the dependent claim 8 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

3.1) Document D1, (*cf D1: column 3 line 54- column 4 line 4, column 13 lines 14-17, column 7 lines 32-42, column 7 lines 65-66*), which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses the features of present claim 1 as mentioned in the precedent paragraph § 2.1 and discloses that the elastic member (60) is laminated in a stretched condition to the nonwoven topsheet and the backsheet (film) from which the subject-matter of the present claim 8 differs in that :
the elastic member is laminated between two nonwoven materials.

3.2) The technical effect of this construction is to improve the comfort (*page 10 lines 1-20 of the present application*). The problem to be solved by the present invention is providing a diaper showing this effect with regard to D1.

3.3) The solution proposed in claim 8 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Articles 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

such features have already been employed for the same purpose in a similar absorbent article, see document D3, *page 2 lines 21-29, page 3 lines 17-22, page 7 lines 5-26, figures 1,2,4*. The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal option to include this feature in the absorbent article described in document D1 in order to solve the problem posed.

The subject-matter of claim 8 does therefore not involve an inventive step (Articles 33(3) PCT).

6) MISCELLANEOUS

6.1) The document EP1319380 cited in the search report as E document will be considered in the European phase for the claims 1,6,7,10.

**WRITTEN OPINION
SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP03/03381

6.2) The applicant is requested to delete the passage on page 17 lines 1-4, see in this respect PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines C-III-4.3.

6.3) The reference numbers "327" of figure 3 and the reference numbers "552" and "550" of figure 5 are not present in the description (see in this respect Rule 32(I),(m) PCT).

7) FINAL COMMENTS

7.1) To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(II) PCT, the documents D1- D3 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.

7.2) The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that the application may not be amended in such a way that it contains subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed (Articles 19(2) and 34(2)(b) PCT).

7.3) In order to facilitate the examination of the conformity of the amended application with the requirements of Article 34(2)(b) PCT, the applicant is requested to clearly identify the amendments carried out, no matter whether they concern amendments by addition, replacement or deletion, and to indicate the passages of the application as filed on which these amendments are based (see also Rule 66.8(a) PCT).

If the applicant regards it as appropriate these indications could be submitted in handwritten form on a copy of the relevant parts of the application as filed.

Moreover, the applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, as a consequence of Rule 66.8(a) PCT, the examiner is not permitted to carry out any amendments under the PCT procedure, however minor these may be.

7.3) The combination of the features of dependent claim 9 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. It is suggested therefore that a new independent claim be drafted to include these features, bearing in mind that the features known in combination in claim 1 should be placed in the preamble of such a claim in accordance with Rule 6.3(b)(i)(ii) PCT.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

22552-2-6-04
51
21. Mai 2004

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

21. Mai 2004

To:

Harrison, Michael C.
ALBIHNS GmbH
Grasserstrasse 10
80339 MÜNCHEN
ALLEMAGNE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

21.05.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P 001 629 PC

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/03381

International filing date (day/month/year)
01.04.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
02.04.2002

Applicant
SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

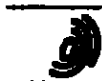
The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the International
preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tlx 31 651 epo nl
Fax +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Dekker, M

Tel. +31 70 340-4048



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 001 629 PC		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEAA16)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/03381	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.04.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 02.04.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F13/15, A61F13/15			
Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB			
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet. ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 807 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheets.			
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I ☒ Basis of the opinion II ☐ Priority III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(II) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI ☐ Certain documents cited VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand 24.10.2003		Date of completion of this report 21.05.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tlx 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer Joly, F Telephone No. +31 70 340-3805 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/03381

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-4, 7-14, 16, 17 as originally filed
5, 6, 15 received on 12.03.2004 with letter of 12.03.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-9 received on 12.03.2004 with letter of 12.03.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/3 as originally filed
2/3, 3/3 received on 12.03.2004 with letter of 12.03.2004

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**International application No. **PCT/EP 03/03381**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1) ART 33(2) PCT - NOVELTY

The document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses : *(cf D1: figures 3-4, column 3 line 54- column 4 line 4, column 6 lines 8-17, the references in parentheses applying to D1)*

an absorbent article comprising two side panels (55), each comprising an elastic member (21) (23), which are distinct from the waist elastic members (67) and (67'). The elastic members (21) (23) are surrounded by a non-elastic portion as the backsheet and the topsheet are inelastic.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the subject matter of D1 in that :
the side flap has an inner edge

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article ART 33(2) PCT).

2) ART 33(3) PCT - INVENTIVE STEP

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as (see description of the present application : page 2 line 27- page 3 line 2) :

- how to improve the fit of the diaper in the back waist
- how to reduce the material cost

It would not be obvious for the skilled person starting from D1 to solve the problem by using distinct side flaps and a precise delimited elastically portion of the side flap.
(see pages 3-4 of the applicant's letter from 12-03-2004)

3) Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of PCT with respect to novelty Article 33(2) PCT and inventive step Article 33(3) PCT.

4) ARTICLE 33(4) PCT-INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The claims 1-9 are considered industrially applicable in the sense of Article 33(4)PCT.

from any elastic in the waist section, which is provided with elastic material allowing the section to be stretched elastically, at least in the lateral direction. Thus, the lower border of the elastic section should be understood as the lower edge of where the elastic material (e.g. rubber sheet or elastic film material or the like) is located in the side flap.

Non-elastic sections may comprise a continuous or discontinuous sheet, web, layer or fabric for example. A non-elastic section can be stretched elastically by only small amounts, normally of the order of between 1 to 15%, but typically less than 10%.

Side flaps in accordance with the invention are used in order to attach the first end portion of the absorbent product to the second end portion in order to provide a closed absorbent product. For this purpose, the side flaps are provided with releasable attachment means, preferably in the form of a releasable mechanical fastener of the hook and loop type (e.g. Velcro®). Releasable mechanical fasteners which may be used with the absorbent product of the invention refer to the type of fasteners which can be attached, removed and reattached by simple and slight pressure, but are not intended to include press-studs and buttons.

The side flaps are discrete portions which are fixedly attached, e.g. by welding or adhesive, to the chassis of the absorbent product, whereby the chassis should be understood as being that part of the product which will contain the absorbent core. Typically the chassis will be formed by the liquid permeable top sheet and the liquid impermeable back sheet and any further

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5X

sheets therebetween, together with an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and back sheet.

Furthermore the side flaps are preferably used to form the outermost parts of the product which are to conform to the leg opening portions of the product which are formed when the first and second end portions are releasably attached. Thus, in order to provide close conformability to the legs, the lower edge of the side flaps will preferably be curved, substantially starting from a point where the side flaps intersect the longitudinal side margins of the chassis and up to the lowermost point on the side flap outer edge.

Brief description of the drawings:

The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to certain non-limiting embodiments thereof and with the aid of the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Fig. 1 shows an absorbent product in accordance with the invention in a laid flat condition,
- Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional view along line II-II in Fig. 1,
- Fig. 3 shows a partial view depicting a corner of an absorbent product including an alternative embodiment of the invention,
- Fig. 4 shows an exemplary plan view illustrating a method of applying a pair of side flaps on one side of an absorbent product.

5 A small border area may also be left between outer edge
344 of the elastic section 333 and the outer edge 319 of
the side flap. This border area may be between 0.3 cm and
3 cm for example. The use of a border area means that the
outer edge portion of the side flap is not elastically
extensible. However, since (as explained in regard t
Fig. 1) releasable fastening means (e.g. means 40) are
attached at this location, elasticity at this location is
10 not required. Thus further elastic material can be saved.

15 Fig. 4 shows a plan view of a stage of production of the
absorbent articles of the present invention. A web of
e.g. back sheet 505 material is fed in the directi n of
arrow B. The part of the web shown depicts absorbent
products being made in longitudinal production back-to-
back and front-to-front. Thus, line 553 depicts an
intended cut line defining the location of two second end
portions 504, 504a on either side of the intended cut
20 line 553. Similarly, two first end portions 502, 502a are
depicted on either side of an imaginary cut line 554.

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P001629PC / MH

12 March, 2004

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CLAIMS

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1. Absorbent product (1) for absorbing human exudate, comprising a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and a lateral axis (X-X) extending generally perpendicular thereto, further comprising a first end portion (2), wherein said first end portion (2) comprises two side flaps (10, 11) each extending laterally outwardly with respect to said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) on either side of a waist section (8), wherein each of said side flaps (10, 11) includes an upper edge (12, 13) and a lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26), said upper and lower edges being separated, and wherein each of said side flaps (10, 11) further comprises an elastic section (33, 34) distinct from any elastic in said waist section (8), wherein at least over a portion of the lateral extent of the side flap (10, 11), said elastic section (33, 34) extends, in a longitudinal direction (Y-Y), over only part of the distance between said upper edge (12, 13) and said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26), and in that a non-elastic section (29, 30) extends between a lower border (31, 32) of said elastic section (33, 34) and said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26), characterized in that said side flap is a discrete member comprising an inner edge (23, 24) and an outer edge (19, 20), said inner edge being longer than said outer edge, and in that said non-elastic section (29, 30) extends, longitudinally, from said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 26) up

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35

AMENDED SHEET

12-03-2004

to a level aligned with a lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

2. An absorbent product according to claim 1, characterized in that said elastic section (33, 34) extends, longitudinally, substantially the entire distance between the upper edge (12, 13) of said side flap (10, 11) and the lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

3. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said lower edge (15, 25, 16, 25) of said side flap has at least one curved portion (15, 16) extending between said inner edge (23, 24) and said outer edge (19, 20).

4. An absorbent product according to claim 3, characterized in that said curved portion (15, 16) extends part of the way between said inner edge (23, 24) and the lower end point (17, 18) of said outer edge (19, 20).

5. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said absorbent product (1) further comprises a liquid-permeable top sheet (6) and a liquid-impermeable back sheet (5), and in that each of said side flaps (10, 11) is a discrete member, fixedly attached at a longitudinal side edge (21, 22) portion of said top sheet (6) and/or said back sheet (5).

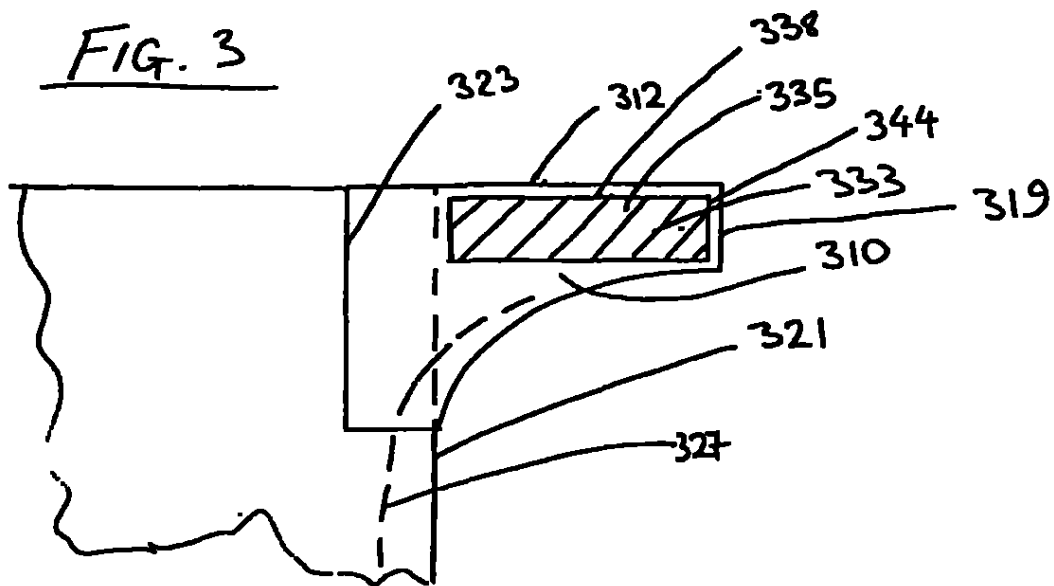
6. An absorbent product according to claim 5, characterized in that said upper edge (12, 13) is

substantially aligned with an upper edge (14) of said top sheet (6) and/or said back sheet (5).

7. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that each of said side flaps (10, 11) comprises an elastic laminate including an elastic material lamina (35) fixedly attached in an at least laterally elongated condition between two laminae (36, 37) of nonwoven material, preferably hydrophobic nonwoven material.

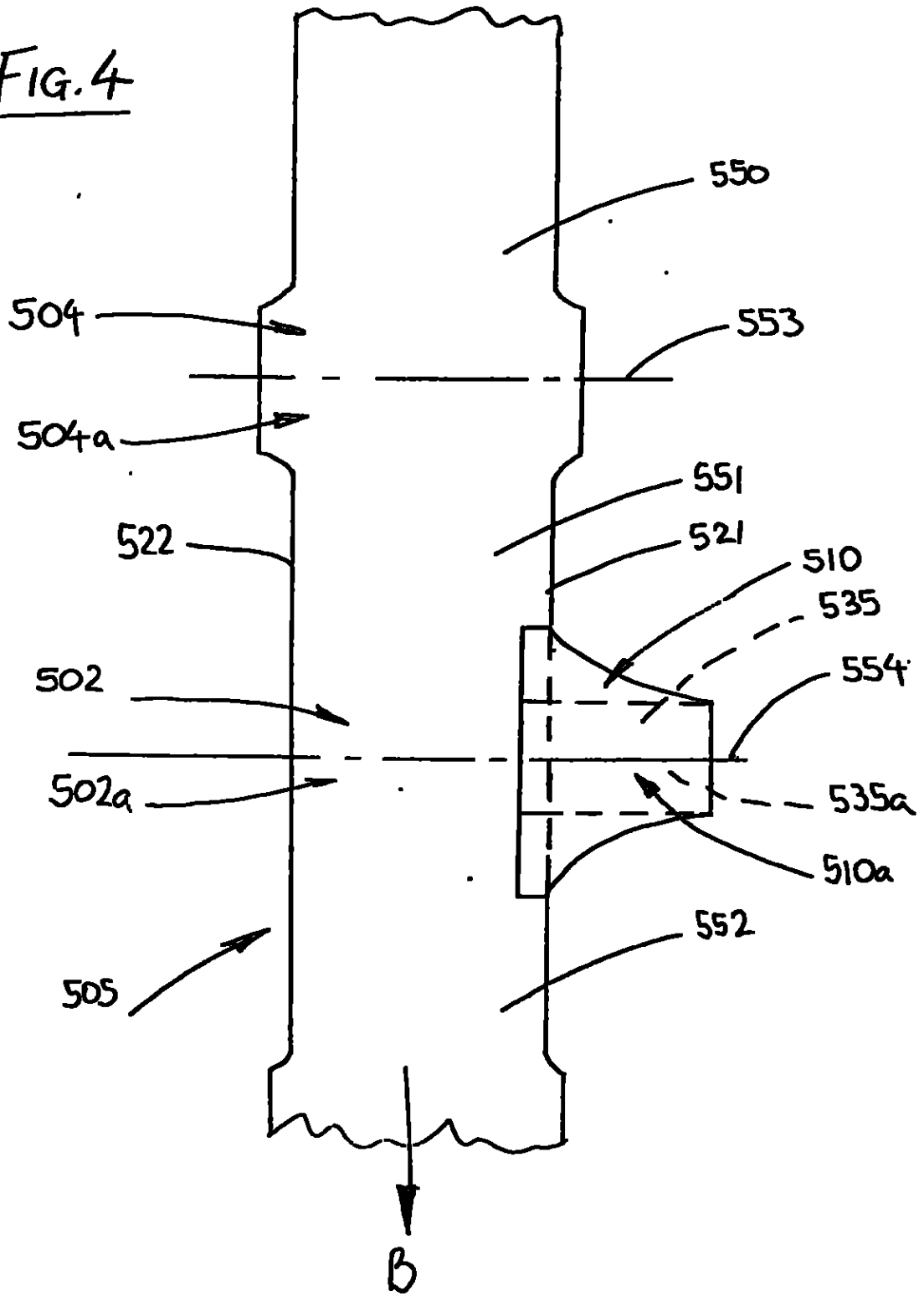
8. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one elastic member (27, 28), forming part of an elasticated leg portion on one respective side of said absorbent product, extends into the non-elastic section (29, 30) of said side flap on said respective side.

9. An absorbent product according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said elastic section (10, 11) is substantially rectangular, and in that said elastic section (10, 11) includes an upper border (38), and in that said upper border (38) is aligned with an upper edge (39) of said side flap (10, 11).



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FIG. 4



TRATADO DE COOPERACIÓN DE PATENTES**PCT****REPORTE DE EXAMEN PRELIMINAR INTERNACIONAL****(Artículo 36 y Regla 70 PCT)**

Archivo de referencia del agente o solicitante

P 001 629 PC**PARA ACCIÓN COMPLEMENTARIA**

Ver Notificación de Remisión de Reporte de Examen

Preliminar Internacional (del PCT/IPEA/416)

Solicitud Internacional No.

PCT/EP 03/03381

Fecha de presentación internacional (día/mes/año)

01.04.2003

Fecha de Prioridad (día/mes/año)

02.04.2002Clasificación de Patente Internacional (IPC) o
clasificación nacional e IPC**A61F13/15, A61F13/15**

Solicitante

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB

1. Este Reporte de Examen Preliminar Internacional ha sido preparado por esta Autoridad Examinadora Preliminar Internacional y se remite al solicitante de acuerdo con el Artículo 36.

2. Este REPORTE consiste de un total de 4 hojas, incluyendo esta hoja de portada.

☒ Este reporte también se acompaña por ANEXOS, es decir hojas de la descripción, reivindicaciones y/o dibujos que han sido corregidos y son la base para este reporte y/o hojas que contienen rectificaciones hechas ante esta Autoridad (ver Regla 70.16 y Sección 607 de las Instrucciones Administrativas de acuerdo con el PCT).

Estos anexos consisten de un total de 8 hojas.

3. Este Reporte contiene indicaciones relacionadas con los siguientes ítems:

I ☒ Base del Concepto

- Fecha de presentación de la petición**

Fecha de terminación de este reporte

21.05.2004

**Nombre y dirección de correspondencia de la autoridad
examinadora preliminar internacional**

**European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Teléfono. + 31 340 -2040 - Tx: 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016**

Oficial Autorizado

Joly, J.

Teléfono No. +31 70 340 3905

Forma PCT/IPEA/409 (hoja de portada) (Enero 2004)

**REPORTE DE EXAMEN
PRELIMINAR INTERNACIONAL**

Solicitud Internacional No.
PCT/EP 03/03381

I. Bases del Reporte

1. Con respecto a los elementos de la solicitud internacional: (reemplazo de las hojas que han sido suministradas a la Oficina de recepción en respuesta a una invitación de acuerdo con el Artículo 14 se refieren a en este reporte como "presentadas originalmente" y no se anexan a este reporte ya que ellas no contienen correcciones (Reglas 70.16 y 70.17)):

Descripción, Páginas:

1-4, 7-14, 16, 17	como se presentó
5, 6, 15	originalmente en 12.03.2004

Reivindicaciones, Números:

1-9	recibidas en 12.03.2004
	Con carta de 12.03.2004

Dibujos, hojas:

1/3-6/6 como se presentó originalmente
2/3, 3/3 recibidas en 12.03.2004
 con carta de 12.03.2004

2. Con respecto al **idioma**, todos los elementos marcados anteriormente estuvieron disponibles o fueron suministrados a esta Autoridad en el idioma en el que la solicitud internacional se presentó, a menos que se indique lo contrario de acuerdo con este ítem.

Estos elementos estuvieron disponibles o fueron suministrados a esta Autoridad en el siguiente idioma:
 , que es:

- ☐ el idioma de una traducción suministrada para propósitos de búsqueda internacional (de acuerdo con la regla 23.1(b)).
- ☐ el idioma de publicación de la solicitud internacional (de acuerdo con la regla 48.3(b)).

☐ el idioma de la traducción suministrado para propósitos de examen preliminar internacional (de acuerdo con la regla 55.2 y/o 55.3).

3. Con respecto a cualquier **secuencia de ácido amino y/o nucleótido** descrito en la solicitud internacional, el concepto escrito se emitió sobre la base de la lista de secuencia:

- ☐ Contenida en la solicitud internacional en forma impresa
- ☐ Presentada junto con la solicitud internacional en forma legible por computador
- ☐ Suministrada posteriormente a esta Autoridad en forma escrita
- ☐ Suministrada posteriormente a esta Autoridad en forma escrita forma legible por computador
- ☐ La declaración de que el listado de secuencias escrito suministrado posteriormente no va más allá de la descripción en la solicitud internacional como se presentó se ha suministrado.

- ☐ La declaración de que la información registrada en forma legible por computador es idéntica al listado de secuencias escrito que se ha suministrado.

4. Las correcciones han dado como resultado la cancelación de:

- ☐ La descripción, páginas:
☐ Las reivindicaciones, Nos.:
☐ Los dibujos, hojas:

5. ☐ Este reporte ha sido emitido como si (algunas de) las correcciones no hubieran sido hechas, ya que ellas han sido consideradas que van más allá de la descripción como se presentó, como se indicó en la casilla complementaria (Regla 70.2(c)):

(Cualquier reemplazo de hojas que contengan dichas correcciones se debe referir de acuerdo al ítem 1 y anexadas a este reporte)

6. Observaciones adicionales, si es necesario:

V. Declaración motivada de acuerdo con el Artículo 35(2) con respecto a novedad, nivel inventivo o aplicabilidad industrial; las citaciones y explicaciones ayudan a dicha declaración

1. Declaración

Novedad (N)

Si: Reivindicaciones 1-9

No: Reivindicaciones

Nivel inventivo (IS)

Si: Reivindicaciones 1-9

No: Reivindicaciones

Aplicabilidad Industrial (IA)

Si: Reivindicaciones 1-9

No: Reivindicaciones

2. Citaciones y Explicaciones

Ver hoja separada

**REPORTE DEL EXAMEN PRELIMINAR INTERNACIONAL-HOJA
SEPARADA**

Solicitud Internacional No.

PCT/EP 03/03381

Re ítem V

Declaración Motivada bajo la Regla 66.2 (a)(ii) con relación a la novedad, nivel Inventivo o aplicación industrial; citas y explicaciones que soportan tal declaración.

1) ARTÍCULO 33(2) PCT - NOVEDAD

El documento D1, que es considerado que representa el estado más relevante de la técnica, describe: (cf D1: figuras 3-4, columna 3 línea 54-columna 4 línea 4, columna 6 líneas 8-17, las referencias en paréntesis aplican a D1)

Un artículo absorbente que comprende dos paneles laterales (55), que comprende cada uno un miembro elástico (21) (23), que son diferentes de los miembros

elásticos de cintura (67) y (67'). Los miembros elásticos (21) (23) están circundados por una porción no elástica en la medida en que la lámina posterior y la lámina superior son inelásticas.

La materia objeto de la reivindicación 1 difiere de la materia objeto de D1 en que:

las aletas laterales tienen un borde interior

La materia objeto de la reivindicación 1 es por lo tanto novedosa (Artículo ART 33(2) PCT).

2) ART 33(3) PCT - NIVEL INVENTIVO

El problema a ser resuelto por la presente invención puede por lo tanto ser relacionado con (ver descripción de la presente solicitud: página 2 línea 27 - página 3 línea 2):

-como mejorar el ajuste del pañal en la cintura posterior

-como reducir el costo del material

25

No sería obvio para la persona experta iniciar de D1 para resolver el problema mediante el uso de aletas laterales diferentes y una porción precisa elásticamente delimitada de la aleta lateral.

(ver página 3-4 de la carta del solicitante desde 12-03-2004)

3) Las reivindicaciones 2-9 son dependientes de la reivindicación 1 y como tales cumplen los requisitos del PCT con respecto al Artículo de novedad 33(2) PCT y el Artículo de nivel inventivo 33(3) PCT.

4) ARTÍCULO 33(4) PCT-APLICACIÓN INDUSTRIAL

Las reivindicaciones 1-9 son consideradas industrialmente aplicables en el sentido del Artículo 33(4) PCT.

de cualquier elástico de la sección de cintura, que se suministra con material elástico que le permite a la sección ser elásticamente tensionada, al menos en la dirección lateral. Así, el límite inferior de la sección elástica se debe entender como el borde inferior en donde se localiza el material elástico en la aleta lateral.

Las secciones no elásticas pueden comprender una lámina continua o discontinua, red, capa o tela, por ejemplo. Una sección no elástica puede ser tensionada elásticamente por solo pequeñas cantidades, normalmente del orden de 1 a 15%, pero típicamente menos del 10%, pero típicamente menos del 10%.

Las aletas laterales de acuerdo con la invención son utilizadas con el fin de unir la primera porción de extremo del producto absorbente a la segunda porción de extremo con el fin de suministrar un producto absorbente cerrado. Para este propósito, las aletas laterales se suministran con medios de unión liberables, preferiblemente en la forma de un asegurador mecánico liberable del tipo gancho y argolla (por ejemplo Velcro®). Los aseguradores mecánicos y liberables que se

HOJA CORREGIDA

pueden utilizar con el producto absorbente de la invención se refieren al tipo de aseguradores que se pueden unir, remover y reunir mediante presión simple y ligera, pero no pretenden incluir ganchos de presión y botones.

Las aletas laterales son porciones discretas que están fijamente unidas, por ejemplo, durante soldadura o adhesivo, al chasis del producto absorbente, por medio del cual el chasis se debe entender como que es parte del producto que contendrá el núcleo absorbente. Típicamente el chasis será formado por la lámina superior permeable a los líquidos y la lámina posterior impermeable a los líquidos y cualquiera

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lámina adicional entre ellas, junto con un núcleo absorbente en emparedado entre la lámina superior y la lámina posterior.

Adicionalmente las aletas laterales son utilizadas preferiblemente para formar las partes más exteriores del producto que se tienen que adecuar a las porciones de abertura de la pierna del producto que están formadas cuando las primeras y segundas porciones de extremo son liberablemente unidas. Así, con el fin de suministrar adecuabilidad cercana a las piernas, el borde inferior de las aletas laterales será preferiblemente curvado, iniciando sustancialmente desde un punto donde las aletas laterales interceptan las márgenes laterales longitudinales del chasis y hasta el punto más inferior sobre el borde exterior de la aleta lateral.

BREVE DESCRIPCIÓN DE LOS DIBUJOS

La invención será ahora explicada con más detalle con referencia a ciertas modalidades no limitantes de esta y con la ayuda de los dibujos que la acompañan, en los cuales:

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La figura 1 muestra un producto absorbente de acuerdo con la invención en una condición plana yaciente,

La figura 2 muestra una vista en sección transversal a lo largo de la línea II-II e la figura 1,

La figura 3 muestra una vista parcial que describe una esquina de un producto absorbente que incluye una modalidad alternativa de la invención,

La figura 4 muestra una vista en planta de ejemplo que ilustra un método para aplicar un par de aletas laterales sobre un lado de un producto absorbente.

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Un área de límite pequeña también se puede levantar entre el borde exterior 344 de la sección elástica 333 y el borde exterior 319 de la aleta lateral. Esta área del límite puede estar entre 0,3 cm y 3 cm por ejemplo. El uso de un área límite significa que la porción de borde exterior de la aleta lateral no es elásticamente extensible. Sin embargo, en razón (como se explica con relación a la figura 1) a que los medios de aseguramiento liberables (por ejemplo medios 40) están unidos en este sitio, la elasticidad en este sitio no se requiere. Así se puede ahorrar material elástico adicional.

La figura 4 muestra una vista de planta de una etapa de producción de los artículos absorbentes de la presente invención. Una red de, por ejemplo, material de lámina posterior 505 se alimenta en la dirección de la flecha B. La parte de la red mostrada describe productos absorbentes que son hechos en producción longitudinal respaldo con respaldo y frente con frente. Así, la línea 553 representa una pretendida línea de corte que define el sitio de dos segundas porciones de extremo 504, 504a a cualquier lado de la línea de corte pretendida 553. De manera similar, las dos primeras porciones de extremo 502, 502a son representadas a cualquier lado de una línea de corte imaginaria 554.

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REIVINDICACIONES

1. Producto absorbente (1) para absorber exudado humano, que comprende un eje longitudinal (Y-Y) y un eje lateral (X-X) que se extiende generalmente perpendicular a este, que comprende adicionalmente una primer porción de extremo (2), en donde dicha primer porción de extremo (2) comprende dos aletas laterales (10, 11) que se extiende cada una lateralmente hacia fuera con respecto a dicho eje longitudinal (Y-Y) a cualquier lado de la sección de cintura (8), en donde cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) incluye un borde superior (12, 13) y un borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26), dichos bordes superior e inferior son separados, y en donde cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) comprende adicionalmente una sección elástica (33, 34) distinta de cualquier elástico en dicha sección de cintura (8), en donde al menos sobre una porción de la extensión lateral de la aleta lateral (10, 11), dicha sección elástica (33, 34) se extiende, en una dirección longitudinal (Y-Y), sobre solamente parte de la distancia

entre dicho borde superior (12, 13) y dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26), y por que una sección no elástica (29, 30) se extiende entre el limite inferior (31, 32) de dicha sección elástica (33, 34) y dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26) **caracterizada por que** dicha aleta lateral es un miembro discreto que comprende un borde interior (23, 24) y un borde exterior (19, 20), dicho borde interior es más largo que dicho borde exterior, y por que dicha sección no elástica (29,30) se extiende, longitudinalmente, desde dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26) hasta un nivel alineado con un punto de extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 20).

2. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo con la reivindicación 1, **caracterizado por que** dicha sección elástica (33, 34) se extiende, longitudinalmente, sustancialmente la distancia completa entre el borde superior (12, 13) de dicha aleta lateral (10, 11) y el punto extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 20).

3. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, **caracterizado por que** dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 25) de dicha aleta lateral tiene al menos una porción curvada (15, 16) que se extiende entre dicho borde interior (23, 24) y dicho borde exterior (19, 20).
4. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 3, **caracterizado por que** dicha porción curvada (15, 16) se extiende parte del camino entre dicho borde interior (23, 24) y el punto extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 20).
5. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, **caracterizado por que** dicho producto absorbente (1) comprende además una lámina superior permeable a los líquidos (6) y una lámina posterior impermeable a los líquidos (5), y por que cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) es un miembro discreto, finamente unido a una porción de borde lateral longitudinal (21, 22)

de dicha lámina superior (6) y/o dicha lámina posterior (5).

6. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 5, **caracterizado por que** dicho borde superior (12, 13) está sustancialmente alineado con el borde superior (14) de dicha lámina superior (6) y/o dicha lámina posterior (5).
7. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, **caracterizado por que** dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) comprenden una lámina elástica que incluye una lámina de material elástico (35) fijamente unida en al menos, una condición lateralmente elongada entre dos láminas (36, 37) de material tejido preferiblemente material no tejido hidrófobo.
8. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, **caracterizado por que** cada al menos un miembro elástico (27, 28), que forma parte de una porción de pierna elastificada sobre un lado

respectivo de dicho producto absorbente, se extiende en la sección no elástica (29, 30) de dicha aleta lateral sobre dicho lado respectivo.

9. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, **caracterizada por que** dicha sección elástica (10, 11) es sustancialmente rectangular, y por que dicha sección elástica (10, 11) incluye un límite superior (38), y por que dicho límite superior (38) esta alineado con un borde superior (29) de dicha aleta lateral (10, 11).

DISPOSICIÓN DE ALETA LATERAL DE PRODUCTO ABSORBENTE

CAMPO DE LA INVENCION

La presente invención se relaciona con un producto absorbente para absorber exudado humano, tal como un pañal, que tiene aletas laterales en un extremo de este para permitir el cierre liberable de dicho producto alrededor de la cintura del usuario. En particular, la invención se relaciona con productos absorbentes que tienen aletas laterales elásticas, y con productos absorbentes del tipo desechable, es decir, del tipo que se descartan cuando se ensucian.

La invención puede también sin embargo ser utilizada con otros productos absorbentes tales como pantaloncitos de entrenamiento que comprenden lados que se pueden abrir y re-cerrar, o con productos que comprenden elementos de núcleos absorbentes reutilizables por ejemplo.

ANTECEDENTES DE LA INVENCION

Los productos absorbentes desechables que tienen aletas laterales elásticas son bien conocidos, un ejemplo de tal producto absorbente que tiene las características definidas en el preámbulo de la reivindicación 1 es un pañal como se describió en el documento WO-A-99/60967. Este documento describe una región de cintura elásticamente extensible que comprende una correa continua. Adicionalmente descrita, diferente del elástico en la sección de cintura, están las aletas laterales que pueden ser elásticas. La elasticidad se suministra por medio de una estructura de capas que consiste de un miembro elástico adicional, preferiblemente laminado entre capas del chasis del producto absorbente. En el producto descrito, el elástico en la porción de cintura también se extiende continuamente hacia la porción superior de las aletas laterales.

Cuando las aletas laterales son hechas de elástico en la WO-A-99/60967, el material elástico se extiende sobre el área completa de las aletas laterales desde su borde inferior hacia arriba, aunque esta se mantiene separada

del material elástico que está presente en la región de cintura.

Aunque el producto conocido de la WO-A-99/60967 tiene la ventaja de ser capaz de suministrar aletas laterales elastificadas, tal construcción es costosa debido a la cantidad de material elástico utilizado, el material elástico es considerable más costoso que otro material de la capa de lámina (por ejemplo el material no tejido u otros materiales poliméricos) utilizados en las aletas laterales no elastificada y otras partes no elásticas de los productos absorbentes. Más aún, la estructura de las aletas laterales se complica cuando las aletas laterales se deben conformar para ser elásticas, en razón a que se utilizan tanto el elástico de cintura como el elástico lateral separado.

Adicionalmente, las aletas laterales elásticas presentan una desventaja adicional por que la porción del producto absorbente que está localizada lateralmente en la línea con la extensión longitudinal de las aletas laterales elásticas, tienden agrupadas juntas como resultado de las fuerzas elásticas proveniente de las aletas laterales elásticas. Este agrupamiento da como resultado que la

espalda del portador está menos cubierta (es decir el producto absorbente se ajusta menos bien/se adapta a la espalda del portador) comparado con cuando se utilizan las aletas laterales no elásticas.

En razón a que el costo del material es una preocupación primaria en productos absorbentes, es un objeto de la invención suministrar un producto absorbente que tiene aletas laterales elastificadas por medio de las cuales se obtiene una estructura simple y por medio de las cuales se minimizan los costos de material sin afectar indebidamente la funcionalidad del producto relacionada con la comodidad y chorreadura etc.

Es un objeto adicional de la invención suministrar una estructura de aleta lateral elastificada que mejora el ajuste del pañal en la espalda del portador.

RESUMEN DE LA INVENCION

El objeto de la invención se logra mediante un producto absorbente que tiene las características definidas en la reivindicación 1. Las características preferidas de la

invención se describen en las reivindicaciones dependientes.

Las características adicionales de la invención serán evidentes para el lector de esta especificación.

De acuerdo con la invención, el producto absorbente se define con respecto al eje longitudinal y al eje lateral. A este respecto un eje longitudinal pretende ser aquel eje que se extiende entre las primeras y segundas porciones de extremo opuestas que están unidas por una porción media o de entrepierna. Los puntos medios de las primeras, segundas porciones de entrepierna son así generalmente alineadas con el eje longitudinal en la mayoría de los casos, a menos que se seleccionen productos no uniformemente dispuestos. El eje lateral es un eje destinado a definir la dirección lateral o transversal y es así generalmente perpendicular a, y normalmente sustancialmente perpendicular a, el eje longitudinal.

Aunque la invención se define con relación a una primera porción de extremo, se entenderá que la primera porción

de extremo puede ser escogida para descansar en cualquier extremo del producto.

La primera porción de extremo, que puede estar en la porción posterior destinada hacer portada en la espalda del usuario durante uso, comprende dos aletas laterales sobre cada lado de la sección de cintura. La sección de cintura misma puede ser provista con elásticos de cintura para suministrar comodidad adicional, por medio de lo cual cualquier elástico suministrado en la sección de cintura debe permitirle a la sección de cintura ser capaz de extenderse elásticamente hasta el 50% y preferiblemente hasta aproximadamente el 100%. Sin embargo, la invención está relacionada primariamente con la sección elástica de las aletas laterales que descansa hacia fuera de cualquier elástico presente en la región de cintura.

En las aletas laterales sin embargo la elasticidad debe ser mayor que aquella de la sección de cintura que descansa entre las aletas laterales. Las aletas laterales deben así ser elásticamente extensibles por una cantidad de más de 100% y preferiblemente más de 150%, más

preferiblemente por más de 250% y aún más preferiblemente por más de 300%.

Una sección elástica se considera que es elástica de acuerdo con la invención si esta puede ser elásticamente extendida por más del 50% si estiramiento sustancial permanente, por medio de lo cual el estiramiento sustancial permanente se entiende como que es el orden de más de aproximadamente 10 a 30% de la longitud inicial del primer tensionamiento.

En la invención, la sección elástica de la aleta lateral se debe entender como aquella parte de la aleta lateral, diferente de cualquier elástico de la sección de cintura, que se suministra con material elástico que le permite a la sección ser elásticamente tensionada, al menos en la dirección lateral. Así, el límite inferior de la sección elástica se debe entender como el borde inferior en donde se localiza el material elástico en la aleta lateral.

Las secciones no elásticas pueden comprender una lámina continua o discontinua, red, capa o tela, por ejemplo. Una sección no elástica puede ser tensionada elásticamente por solo pequeñas cantidades, normalmente

del orden de 1 a 15%, pero típicamente menos del 10%, pero típicamente menos del 10%.

Las aletas laterales de acuerdo con la invención son utilizadas con el fin de unir la primera porción de extremo del producto absorbente a la segunda porción de extremo con el fin de suministrar un producto absorbente cerrado. Para este propósito, las aletas laterales se suministran con medios de unión liberables, preferiblemente en la forma de un asegurador mecánico liberable del tipo gancho y argolla (por ejemplo Velcro®). Los aseguradores mecánicos y liberables que se pueden utilizar con el producto absorbente de la invención se refieren al tipo de aseguradores que se pueden unir, remover y reunir mediante presión simple y ligera, pero no pretenden incluir ganchos de presión y botones.

Las aletas laterales son preferiblemente porciones discretas que están fijamente unidas, por ejemplo, durante soldadura o adhesivo, al chasis del producto absorbente, por medio del cual el chasis se debe entender como que es parte del producto que contendrá el núcleo

absorbente. Típicamente el chasis será formado por la lámina superior permeable a los líquidos y la lámina posterior impermeable a los líquidos y cualquier lámina adicional entre ellas, junto con un núcleo absorbente en emparedado entre la lámina superior y la lámina posterior.

Adicionalmente las aletas laterales son utilizadas preferiblemente para formar las partes más exteriores del producto que se tienen que adecuar a las porciones de abertura de la pierna del producto que están formadas cuando las primeras y segundas porciones de extremo son liberablemente unidas. Así, con el fin de suministrar adecuabilidad cercana a las piernas, el borde inferior de las aletas laterales será preferiblemente curvado, iniciando sustancialmente desde un punto donde las aletas laterales interceptan las márgenes laterales longitudinales del chasis y hasta el punto más inferior sobre el borde exterior de la aleta lateral.

BREVE DESCRIPCIÓN DE LOS DIBUJOS

La invención será ahora explicada con más detalle con referencia a ciertas modalidades no limitantes de esta y

con la ayuda de los dibujos que la acompañan, en los cuales:

La figura 1 muestra un producto absorbente de acuerdo con la invención en una condición plana yaciente,

La figura 2 muestra una vista en sección transversal a lo largo de la línea II-II e la figura 1,

La figura 3 muestra una vista parcial que describe una esquina de un producto absorbente que incluye una modalidad alternativa de la invención,

La figura 4 muestra una vista similar a la figura 3 de una modalidad adicional de la invención,

La figura 5 muestra una vista de planta de ejemplo que ilustra un método para aplicar un par de aletas laterales en un lado de un producto absorbente.

DESCRIPCIÓN DETALLADA DE LAS MODALIDADES PREFERIDAS

En la figura 1, el producto absorbente 1 comprende un eje longitudinal Y-Y y un eje lateral X-X que se extiende

generalmente perpendicular a este. En la dirección longitudinal, el producto absorbente 1 se divide en tres porciones, una primer porción de extremo 2 una porción media o de entrepierna 3, y una segunda porción de extremo 4. La primera porción de extremo 2 es, en la modalidad mostrada destinada a ser la porción posterior del pañal, es decir que la porción del producto absorbente pretende estar localizada contra la espalda del usuario durante uso.

El eje longitudinal Y-Y pasa así generalmente a través de los puntos medios de cada una de las tres porciones 2, 3, 4.

El producto absorbente es mostrado en la vista de planta con una lámina posterior impermeable a los líquidos 5 mostrada en la parte más superior. Una lámina superior permeable a los líquidos 6 se ubica sobre el lado opuesto de la lámina posterior 5 y es preferiblemente coextensiva con esta y sellada en la lamina posterior 5 en las periferias de dichas láminas, por ejemplo, mediante soldadura o adhesivo (no mostrado). Entre la lámina posterior 5 y la lámina superior 6 se ubica un núcleo absorbente 7. Con estructuras posibles y los materiales

de la lámina superior 6, la lámina posterior 5 y el núcleo absorbente 7 pueden ser ampliamente variadas, y se conocen muchas posibilidades en la técnica. Ninguna descripción adicional del mismo es dada en la especificación, en razón a que las estructuras y materiales apropiados serán evidentes para la persona experta.

En la primera porción de extremo 2 y la segunda porción de extremo 4, se prefiere una primera sección de cintura elastificada 8 y una segunda sección de cintura elastificada 9 respectivamente. El elástico de cintura, cuando está presente, preferiblemente permite una extensión de hasta el 50% y permite los movimientos del usuario cuando se para y se sienta por ejemplo, para ser tomada e cuenta aunque aún suministrando una porción de cintura confortable y bien ajustada. El elástico de cintura, cuando está presente, se localiza preferiblemente hacia el exterior de los límites longitudinales del núcleo absorbente 7 de tal forma que cualquier agrupamiento del núcleo absorbente 7 por las fuerzas elásticas se minimiza en elástico de cintura.

A cada lado de la primera sección de cintura 8 se localiza una primer aleta lateral 10 y una segunda aleta lateral 11. Las aletas laterales 10, 11 son preferiblemente sustancialmente idénticas. La más preferida es la disposición descrita, por medio de la cual las primeras y segundas aletas laterales 10, 11 son imágenes de espejo idénticas una de la otra.

Cada una de las aletas laterales 10, 11 tiene un borde superior 12, 13 localizado en la modalidad mostrado sustancialmente en línea con el borde superior del miembro de chasis (es decir el borde superior 14 de la lamina superior combinada 5 y la lámina posterior 6 en este caso). El borde inferior 15, 16 de cada aleta tiene una porción curvada que se extiende desde el punto más bajo 17, 18 del borde exterior 19, 20. La porción curvada intercepta el chasis a la largo de los bordes laterales longitudinales 21, 22 y tiene una porción pequeña 25, 26 que se extiende lateralmente hasta el borde interior 23, 24. Los bordes laterales longitudinales 21, 22 se extienden longitudinalmente desde el borde superior 14 del producto y se fusionan en las orejas o aletas laterales en la segunda porción de extremo 4. Los elásticos de pierna 27, 28 se ubican próximos a los

bordes laterales longitudinales 21, 22 del producto y sirven para elastificar las porciones de pierna, especialmente en la región de entrepierna donde la chorreadura más probablemente ocurra. Adicionalmente, los elásticos de pierna preferiblemente se extienden en una porción no elástica inferior 29, 30 de las aletas laterales 10, 11.

Las porciones no elásticas inferiores 29, 30 se extienden respectivamente todo el camino desde el borde interior 23, 24 al borde exterior 19, 20 entre el borde inferior de la aleta formada por porciones 15, 25 y 16, 26 respectivamente a el límite inferior 31, 32 de las secciones elásticas 33, 34.

Las secciones elásticas 33, 34 de las aletas laterales 10, 11 se extienden, en esta modalidad, desde el borde superior de las aletas 10, 11 todo el camino entre el borde interior 23, 24 y el borde exterior 19, 20 hacia abajo al límite inferior 31, 32 que se alinea con el extremo inferior del borde exterior de la aleta lateral 17, 18. Así, las secciones elásticas en esta modalidad son sustancialmente rectangulares.

Como se puede ver, las secciones elásticas 33, 34 se extienden cada una, en una dirección longitudinal, solo parte de la distancia entre los bordes superior 12, 13 y bordes inferior 15, 25, 16, 26 de las aletas laterales. La extensión de las secciones elásticas están solo sobre parte de la distancia que es mantenida sobre casi la extensión lateral entera (la extensión lateral es la distancia lateral entre los bordes interiores 23, 24 y los bordes exteriores 19, 20) de la aleta lateral. Sin embargo la sección elástica 33, 34 puede en algunos casos ser hecha para coincidir con el borde inferior 15, 16 en el sitio de los puntos finales exteriores inferiores 17, 18 sobre las aletas. En aquel caso solamente en ese sitio se extendería entonces la distancia total entre los bordes superior e inferior. Así, en general, se puede establecer que al menos sobre una porción de la extensión lateral de la aleta lateral (preferiblemente sobre la mayoría de la extensión lateral y más preferiblemente sobre la extensión total de la aleta) la sección elástica 33, 34 se extenderá (en una dirección longitudinal) solo sobre parte de la distancia entre dicho borde superior y dicho borde inferior.

Las secciones elásticas 33, 34 comprenden cada una un material elástico 35 tal como una lámina elástica (ver figura 2). Por razones de comodidad uso, el material elástico 35 se localiza adyacente y unido fijamente a al menos una capa (por ejemplo capa 36), o más preferiblemente entre dos láminas o capas 36, 37 de material no elástico. La unión fija del material elástico 35 a la o las capas se puede desarrollar por ejemplo por medio de adhesivo y/o soldadura.

Un material preferido para las capas 36 y/o 37 es un material fibroso no elástico, preferiblemente un material no tejido hecho de filamentos continuos (unidos por hilado) o fibras de filamento cardado (termo unidas, unidas con aire a través o hidroentramadas). También, el no tejido hecho de fibras cortas fundidas por soplado se puede utilizar. Se puede utilizar por ejemplo un material no tejido tal como el material S-M-S (material unido por hilado-fundido por soplado-unido por hilado).

Con el fin de que la aleta sea elastificada mediante el uso del material elástico, el material elástico 35 puede por ejemplo ser primero tensionado a su extensión lateral requerida en uso (por ejemplo 200%) y luego unido en su

estado tensionado a una o más capas de material no elástico, tal como las capas 36, 37. Así, cada una de las capas no elásticas 36,37 se puede extender sobre el área completa de la aleta lateral 10, 11, aunque el material elástico 35 solo se extiende en el área en la cual se va a formar la sección elástica 33, 34. En razón a que áreas significativas de las aletas laterales ahora les falta material elástico, lo cual es costoso, se pueden hacer grandes ahorros en costos.

En razón sin embargo a que el material no tejido no elástico puede alongarse cuando se aplica una fuerza de halado (aunque la recuperación elástica es muy baja), el material elástico no tiene que ser fijado bajo su elongación máxima con el fin de lograr suficientes propiedades elásticas en la aleta lateral. Ciertos materiales no tejidos no elásticos pueden por ejemplo tener un índice muy alto de extensibilidad en la dirección lateral, de tal forma que si estos materiales no tejidos no elásticos aún altamente extensibles son utilizados como capa 36 y/o capa 37, el material elástico puede aún ser fijado con tensión cero al material no elástico.

Otras formas de utilizar material elástico para elastificar las aletas laterales también son conocidas en la técnica, tal como el uso de un material elástico activable que es no elástico hasta que se calienta. Luego del calentamiento, el material se vuelve elástico. Tales materiales son conocidos en la técnica y así no se describen adicionalmente aquí. Tales materiales pueden ser utilizados en esta invención.

Como se entenderá de lo anterior, los bordes inferiores 15, 16, que forman al menos parte de las aberturas de pierna, serán así no elásticos pero se agruparan cuando las zonas elásticas 33, 34 estén en condición relajada. Sin embargo, se ha encontrado que el uso de elástico en esta área generalmente no se refiere para darle buena comodidad y ajuste, y en general la extensión de las aletas laterales 10, 11 con el fin de cerrar el área de escritura del producto es generalmente suficiente para lograr este propósito. Sin embargo, en el área próxima donde los bordes inferiores 15, 16 de las aletas laterales 10, 11 interceptan los bordes longitudinales 21, 22, los elásticos de pierna 27, 28 se pueden extender dentro de las aletas laterales y unirse fijamente a las secciones no elásticas 29, 30 o a las aletas laterales

10, 11. Aunque algún material elástico esté entonces presente en las secciones no elásticas de las aletas laterales, los elásticos de pierna son sin embargo generalmente estirados de caucho moldeado por ejemplo del tipo conocido como Fullflex®, o película elástica que tiene un ancho de aproximadamente 2 a 6 mm, haciendo así este considerablemente más barato cuando se compara con la elaboración de los elásticos de las aletas laterales completas como en las soluciones de la técnica anterior.

Los elásticos de pierna 27, 28, cuando están puentes, pueden extenderse varios cm, por ejemplo, entre 1 y 8 cm, en las aletas laterales. Estos elásticos de pierna 27, 28 deben preferiblemente seguir la curvatura de los bordes inferiores 15, 25, 16, 26 sobre al menos parte de su longitud y al menos sobre parte de la porción curvada.

Los bordes interiores 23, 24 de las aletas laterales 10, 11 preferiblemente descansan lateralmente hacia el interior de los bordes longitudinales 21, 22 para suministrar un traslado típicamente mediante una cantidad de entre 0,5 y 6 cm. La longitud de los bordes interiores 23, 24 en la dirección longitudinal puede descansar por

ejemplo entre 4 cm hasta 25 cm. El traslapo se utiliza para suministrar un área de unión del chasis (es decir la parte superior unida 6 y la lámina posterior 5 en este caso) a las aletas laterales 10, 8. En la modalidad mostrada, las aletas laterales 10, 11 son cada una fijadas al lado que da hacia el exterior de la lámina posterior 5. Sin embargo, será evidente que las aletas laterales 10, 11 se pueden ubicar de tal forma que ellas se fijen a la lámina superior 6, o a ambas la lámina superior 6 y la lámina posterior 5. Las aletas laterales 10, 11 se pueden unir por ejemplo de tal forma que cada una de las aletas laterales 10, 11 se mantenga entre la lámina superior 6 y la lámina posterior 5, o de tal forma que la lámina superior 6 y la lámina posterior 5 estén ellas mismas en sándwich entre, fijamente unidas a, las porciones de borde inferior (es decir las porciones traslapadas) de las capas separadas de material (por ejemplo capas 36, 37) caracterizando las aletas laterales. Similarmente, las modalidades son posibles solo cuando una de las capas de las aletas laterales 10, 11 se unan fijamente entre la lámina superior 6 y la lámina posterior 5, aunque otra capa de la aleta lateral 10, 11 podría unirse a una superficie que da hacia el exterior de la lámina superior 6 o la lámina posterior 5.

En la porción de borde exterior de las aletas laterales 10, 11 una primer parte 40, 41 de unos medios^e de aseguramiento liberables, en particular unos medios de aseguramiento mecánicos liberables (por ejemplo un miembro de aleta de gancho y argolla). Los medios están sobre el lado inferior (interior) de la aleta lateral 10, 11 en la vista mostrada en la figura 1. En la segunda porción de extremo 4 del producto absorbente 1, existen dos porciones 42, 43, por ejemplo de material de argolla, material no tejido o material de miembro de gancho) que cooperan con un respectivo de dichos medios de aseguramiento 40, 41. Tales uniones liberables son bien conocidas por los expertos en la técnica y no se requiere suministrar una descripción adicional detallada.

Las dos porciones 42, 43 podrían sin embargo ser reemplazadas por una porción de unión simple que se extiende sobre la parte central de la segunda porción de extremo 4.

La figura 2 muestra la aleta lateral 10 en sección transversal, por medio de la cual se presenta la estructura de laminado. El material central o la lámina

central, es un material elástico 35 que tiene un borde un límite superior 38. En la modalidad mostrada, la distancia longitudinal "a" (cf. Figura 1) es igual a la distancia longitudinal de el material elástico, que es constante a través de la aleta lateral de esta modalidad y así se corresponde sustancialmente con la longitud del borde exterior 19, 20. La distancia "a" típicamente descansará entre 4 cm y 12 cm. El material elástico 35 está en emparedado entre y fijo a las capas 36, 37 de material no elástico, tal como material no tejido. El o las capas de material no elástico se extienden preferiblemente sobre el área de superficie completa de las aletas laterales 10, 11.

Las capas de material 36, 37 son mostradas en una lámina simple o capas, aunque se debe entender que cada una de estas capas puede comprender más de una lámina o capa (tal como en el caso de los materiales S-M-S mencionados anteriormente). Las varias capas pueden ser mantenidas juntas mediante cualquiera medios adecuados tales como soldado, en particular soldado ultrasónico, o adhesivo, o mediante métodos mecánicos tales como agujeteado, u otros métodos.

El limite superior 38 del material elástico 35 descansa sustancialmente el mismo nivel que el borde superior 12, 13 de la aleta lateral y es co-extensivo con esta. De esta manera e área completa del borde superior 14, 13 a los puntos de extremo inferior 17, 18 de los bordes laterales están en una sección elástica y pueden ser extendidos elásticamente.

En la figura 3, se describe una modalidad adicional, en la cual el material elástico 335 es resaltado. El material elástico 335 es así utilizado para elastificar la aleta lateral sobre un área 333. Esta área 333 se extiende desde un sitio lateralmente exterior del borde interior 323 y también preferiblemente lateralmente hacia el exterior del borde lateral longitudinal 321. De esta manera el uso del material elástico se optimiza adicionalmente, en razón a que el área de unión de la aleta lateral 310 al chasis (es decir el área de traslapo entre el borde 323 y el borde 321) no requiere elastificación. En esta modalidad, la sección elástica 333 no se extiende hasta el borde superior 312 pero tiene su limite superior 338 localizado por debajo del mismo (por ejemplo 0,3 a 1 cm por debajo del borde 312). La aleta lateral 310 sin embargo permanece aún elástica

sobre la mayoría de su área superior entre el borde exterior 319 y el borde lateral longitudinal 321. La distancia entre el límite superior 338 y el borde superior 312 debe sin embargo no ser demasiado grande en razón de otra parte a los efectos de enredamiento en el borde superior 312 que pueden ocurrir con la resultante falta de comodidad.

Un área de límite pequeña también se puede levantar entre el borde exterior 344 de la sección elástica 333 y el borde exterior 319 de la aleta lateral. Esta área del límite puede estar entre 0,3 cm y 3 cm por ejemplo. El uso de un área límite significa que la porción de borde exterior de la aleta lateral no es elásticamente extensible. Sin embargo, en razón (como se explica con relación a la figura 1) a que los medios de aseguramiento liberables (por ejemplo medios 40) están unidos en este sitio, la elasticidad en este sitio no se requiere. Así se puede ahorrar material elástico adicional.

La figura 4 muestra una modalidad aun adicional, en la cual el material elástico 435 ocupa un poco o más de la extensión longitudinal que aquella en la figura 1. El material elástico a saber se extiende longitudinalmente

por debajo de un nivel definido por el extremo inferior 417 del borde exterior 419. Tal modalidad suministra así elastificación de la mayoría de la parte curvada exterior de el borde inferior 415 con solamente un pequeño incremento en la extensión longitudinal del material elástico 435. Similarmente, el elástico de pierna 427 se extiende parcialmente en la porción no elástica 429 de la aleta lateral y así la elastificación de casi la porción curvada completa del borde inferior se suministra, aunque aun ahorrando grandes cantidades de material elástico.

La figura 5 muestra una vista de planta de una etapa de producción de los artículos absorbentes de la presente invención. Una red de por ejemplo de material de lámina posterior 55 es alimentada en la dirección de la flecha B. La parte de la red mostrada describe productos absorbentes que son hechos en producción longitudinal respaldo con respaldo y frente a frente. Así, la línea 553 describe una línea de corte pretendida que define el sitio de dos segundas porciones de extremo 504, 504a sobre cualquiera de los lados de la línea de corte pretendida 553. Similarmente, las dos primeras porciones de extremo 502, 502a son descritas sobre cualquier lado de una línea de corte imaginario 554.



Una máquina (no mostrada) aplica una pieza simple de tela que comprende os aletas laterales combinadas 510, 510a que contienen una pieza simple de material elástico tensionado aquí denotado como 535, 535a. La pieza simple de tela descansa sustancialmente simétrica a través d el alinea de corte pretendida 554, a cualquier lado de la cual serán creadas dos primeras porciones de extremo 502, 502a de la línea de corte 554.

Una pieza simple de tela se aplica a solamente un borde lateral 521 en la modalidad mostrada, aunque esta se entenderá que una pieza similar de tela debe ser aplicada al lado opuesto, en el mismo sitio sustancialmente de manera simétrica alrededor de la línea de corte pretendida 554 con el fin de formar las aletas laterales en el borde lateral opuesto 522. Esto puede ocurrir posteriormente, anteriormente, o al mismo tiempo en que la pieza de tela simple (que comprende 510, 510a) se aplica al borde 521.

En la estación posterior (no mostrada) la red se corta sucesivamente en línea 554 y luego 553, de tal forma que resultan productos individuales. La modalidad descrita es

una modalidad preferida de un método para llevar a cabo la invención. Lo cual da como resultado ahorro en tiempo debido a solamente las piezas simples de la tela que son requeridas de las cuales son hechas dos aletas laterales. Esto también da como resultado un producto donde los bordes de extremo (comparar con el borde de extremo 14 en la figura 1) están alineados exactamente con los bordes superiores (comparar con los bordes 12, 13 en la figura 1) de las aletas laterales, administrando así un producto pulcro y atractivo sin que se requiera ningún corte. Sin embargo se entenderá que cada una de las aletas laterales 510, 510a podría ser preformada como pieza separada y aplicada y unida separadamente a la lamina posterior y/o la lamina superior de tales productos.

Las modalidades adicionales serán fácilmente entendidas por la persona experta luego de leer lo anterior y pretende estar comprendida durante el alcance de la invención como se define por las reivindicaciones finales.

REIVINDICACIONES

1. Producto absorbente (1) para absorber exudado humano, que comprende un eje longitudinal (Y-Y) y un eje lateral (X-X) que se extiende generalmente perpendicular a este, que comprende adicionalmente una primer porción de extremo (2), en donde dicha primer porción de extremo (2) comprende dos aletas laterales (10, 11) que se extiende cada una lateralmente hacia fuera con respecto a dicho eje longitudinal (Y-Y) a cualquier lado de la sección de cintura (8), en donde cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) incluye un borde superior (12, 13) y un borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26), dichos bordes superior e inferior son separados, y en donde cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) comprende adicionalmente una sección elástica (33, 34) distinta de cualquier elástico en dicha sección de cintura (8), caracterizada por que al menos sobre una porción de la extensión lateral de la aleta lateral (10, 11), dicha sección elástica (33, 34) se extiende, en una dirección longitudinal (Y-Y), sobre solamente parte de la

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distancia entre dicho borde superior (12, 13) y dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26), y por que una sección no elástica (29, 30) se extiende entre el limite inferior (31, 32) de dicha sección elástica (33, 34) y dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26).

2. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 1, caracterizada por que dicha aleta lateral comprende adicionalmente un borde interior (23, 24) y un borde exterior (19, 20), dicho borde interior es mayor que dicho borde exterior, y por que dicha sección no elástica (29, 30) se extiende, longitudinalmente desde dicho borde inferior (15, 25, 16, 26) hasta un nivel alineado con un punto extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 20).

3. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 2, caracterizado por que dicha sección elástica (33, 34) se extiende, longitudinalmente, sustancialmente la distancia completa entre el borde superior (12, 13) de dicha aleta lateral (10, 11) y el punto de

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extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 20).

4. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes caracterizado por que dicho borde inferior (15, 25 16, 25) de dicha aleta lateral tiene al menos una porción curvada (15, 16) que se extiende entre dicho borde interior (23, 24) y dicho borde exterior (19, 20).
5. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 4, caracterizado por que dicha porción curvada (15, 16) se extiende parte del camino entre dicho borde inferior (23, 24) y el punto extremo inferior (17, 18) de dicho borde exterior (19, 29).
6. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, caracterizado por que dicho producto absorbente (1) comprende adicionalmente una lámina superior permeable a los líquidos (6) y una lámina posterior impermeable a los líquidos (5), y en

que cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10,11) es un miembro discreto (fijamente unido a una porción de borde lateral longitudinal (21, 22) de dicha lámina superior (6) y/o dicha lámina posterior (5).

7. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a la reivindicación 6, caracterizado por que dicho borde superior (12, 13) está sustancialmente alineado con un borde superior (14) de dicha lámina superior (6) y/o dicha lámina posterior (5).

8. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, caracterizada por que cada una de dichas aletas laterales (10, 11) comprende una lámina elástica que incluye una lámina de material elástico (35) fijamente unida en una al menos condición lateralmente elongada entre dos láminas (36, 37) de material no tejido, preferiblemente material no tejido hidrófobo.

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9. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, caracterizada por que al menos un miembro elástico (27, 28), que forma parte de una porción de pierna elastificada sobre un lado respectivo de dicho producto absorbente, se extiende en la sección no elástica (29, 30) de dicha aleta lateral en dicho lado respectivo.
10. Un producto absorbente de acuerdo a una cualquiera de las reivindicaciones precedentes, caracterizado por que dicha sección elástica (10, 11) es sustancialmente rectangular, y por que dicha sección elástica (10, 11) incluye un limite superior (38), y por que dicho limite superior (38) se alinea con un borde superior (39) de dicha aleta lateral (10, 11).

Expediente No		040 99213	No de Folio
Item		No de unidades	✓
1	CD		
2	DVD		
3	REVISTA		
4	LIBRO		
5	PERIODICO		
6	DISQUETES		
7	SOBRE DE MANILA		
8	SOBRE BLANCO TAMAÑO CARTA	2	✓
9	SOBRE BLANCO TAMAÑO OFICIO	7	
10	OTROS:		

Observaciones:

contiene Ardc final

SUPERINDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO
Radicación : 04097213 00000000 Folios: 119
Fecha (MM): 2004-09-29 17:28:13
Trámite : 011 PCT-PATENT 379 FASE NACI 411 PRESENTA
Dependencia: 2020 DIVISION DE NUEVAS CREACIONES

NIT : 800176089-2

RECIBO OFICIAL DE CAJA : 04 - 76,092
FECHA : SEPTIEMBRE 27 DE 2004

CONSIGNACION

DEPOSITANTE	TIPO PAGO	BANCO	CUENTA	No. PAGO	FECHA PGO	Vr. PAGO
CAVELIER ABOGADOS	CONSIGNACION	BANCO POPULAR	050-00110-6	32758484	27/09/2004	39,426,000.00

CONCEPTO

CANT. CONTABILITICO	CONCEPTO	TOTAL CONCEPTO
1 50005-01-01 SOLICITUDES	1 TRAMITES DE SOL. DE PATENTE DE IN	422,000.00
	TOTAL :	\$ 422,000.00

SON: CUATROCIENTOS VEINTIDOS MIL PESOS

RESPONSABLE : _____

RECIBO DE CAJA APLICADO AL EXPEDIENTE No. _____

Cdo 11206-841-049-5

REQUISITOS NECESARIOS PARA PRESENTACION Y AGILIZACION DEL TRAMITE

	USUARIO	RADIADOR
PATENTE DE INVENCION		
MODELO DE UTILIDAD	()	()
Indicación de que se solicita la concesión de una patente.	()	()
Datos de identificación del solicitante o de la persona que se presenta la solicitud.	()	()
Descripción de la invención.	()	()
Dibujos de ser estos pertinentes.	()	()
Comprobante de pago de las tasas establecidas.	()	()
COMPLETA ()	INCOMPLETA ()	()

DISEÑO INDUSTRIAL ()		
Indicación de que se solicita el registro de Diseño Industrial	()	()
Datos de identificación del solicitante o de la persona que presenta la solicitud.	()	()
Representación gráfica o fotográfica del Diseño Industrial o muestra del Material que incorpora el diseño.	()	()
Comprobante de pago de las tasas establecidas	()	()
COMPLETA ()	INCOMPLETA ()	()

ESQUEMA DE TRAZADO ()		
Indicación de que solicita el registro de un Esquema de trazado.	()	()
Datos de identificación del solicitante o de la persona que presenta la solicitud.	()	()
Representación gráfica del esquema de trazado	()	()
Comprobante de pago de las tasas establecidas.	()	()
COMPLETA ()	INCOMPLETA ()	()

SUPERINDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO
 Radicación : 04037212 00000004 Folios: 119.
 Fecha (MD): 2004-09-29 17:20:33
 Trámite : 011 PCT-PATENT 379 FASE INCI 411 PRESENTA
 Dependencias: 2020 DIVISION DE NUEVAS CREACIONES

Fecha:

2020

2° EXAMEN DE FORMA SOLICITUD PCT, PATENTE DE INVENCION

Radicación N° 04-97213

Concepto Técnico N° 776

Clasificación Internacional de Patentes:

Practicado el examen de acuerdo a lo establecido en el Art. 38 de la Decisión 486, se determinó que esta solicitud de Patente:

- SI ☒ NO ☐ Contiene un resumen de la invención (Art. 26-e)
- SI ☒ NO ☐ Contiene el título o nombre de la invención (Art. 27-d)
- SI ☒ NO ☐ Contiene la descripción de la invención (Art. 26-b)
- SI ☒ NO ☐ NO ES APLICABLE ☐ Contiene los dibujos necesarios para comprender la invención (Art. 26-d)
- SI ☒ NO ☐ Contiene una o más reivindicaciones (Art. 26-c)
- SI ☐ NO ☐ NO ES APLICABLE ☒ Han sido desarrollados los productos a partir de recursos genéticos o de sus productos derivados de los que cualquiera de los Países Miembros es país de origen (Art. 26-h)
- SI ☐ NO ☐ NO ES APLICABLE ☒ Los productos y o procedimientos han sido obtenidos o desarrollados a partir de los conocimientos tradicionales de las comunidades indígenas, afro americanas, o locales de los Países Miembros, de acuerdo a lo establecido en la Decisión 391 y sus modificaciones y reglamentaciones vigentes (Art. 26-i)
- SI ☐ NO ☒ La invención se refiere a un producto relativo a un material biológico (Art. 26-j)
- SI ☒ NO ☐ NO ES APLICABLE ☐ La prioridad coincide con la materia reivindicada.
- SI ☒ NO ☐ **CUMPLE LOS REQUISITOS TÉCNICOS**

OBSERVACIONES Y OTROS: SI ☒ NO ☐ Ver hoja(s) anexa(s)

EXAMINADOR TÉCNICO: 202063

Bogotá D C, 21 de octubre de 2004

2020
Bogotá D C

Doctor(a)
EMILIO FERRERO
Apoderado(a)
SCA HIGIENE PRODUCTS AB

REFERENCIA:	Radicación N°	04-97213
	Solicitud internacional	PCT/EP03/03381
	Fecha inicio fase nacional	2004-11-02
	Trámite	011
	Evento	379
	Actuación	416
	Oficio N°	1614
	Folios	001

Teniendo en cuenta que la solicitud de privilegio de patente que se tramita bajo el expediente indicado en la referencia, reúne los requisitos de forma establecidos en los artículos 26 y 27 de la Decisión 486, de la Comisión de la Comunidad Andina, y en las demás disposiciones vigentes sobre la materia, se envía el extracto de la solicitud a la oficina de comunicaciones para efecto de su publicación en la Gaceta de Propiedad Industrial, conforme lo establece el artículo 40 de la Decisión 486.

Cúmplase

Dado en Bogotá D C,

26 OCT. 2004

ALIX CARMENZA CÉSPEDES DE VERGEL
Jefe División de Nuevas Creaciones.