

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:
FLACK, STEVEN D.

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. 2300
WINCHESTER ROAD NEENAH WI 54956 USA

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **21 April 2015 (21.04.2015)**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
64922461PC04

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/US2014/071546

International filing date (day/month/year)

19 December 2014 (19.12.2014)

Priority date(day/month/year)

20 December 2013 (20.12.2013)

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

B32B 37/00(2006.01)i, B32B 23/10(2006.01)i, B32B 7/02(2006.01)i, B32B 5/26(2006.01)i

Applicant

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.
For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR
International Application Division
Korean Intellectual Property Office
189 Cheongsu-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon
Metropolitan City, 302-701, Republic of Korea
Facsimile No. ++82 42 472 7140

Date of completion of this opinion

20 April 2015 (20.04.2015)

Authorized officer

CHO, Han Sol

Telephone No. +82-42-481-5580



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US2014/071546

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of :

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43*bis*. I(a))

3. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing:

- a. ☐ forming part of the international application as filed:
☐ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
☐ on paper or in the form of an image file.
- b. ☐ furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13*ter*. I(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
- c. ☐ furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
☐ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13*ter*. I(a)).
☐ on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13*ter*. I(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).

4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO

2. Citations and explanations :

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 2010-0196672 A1 (BONNEH, A.) 05 August 2010

D2: US 4935287 A (JOHNSON, B. D. et al.) 19 June 1990

D3: US 2002-0016122 A1 (CURRO, J. J. et al.) 07 February 2002

D4: US 2008-0095978 A1 (SIQUEIRA, J. et al.) 24 April 2008

D5: WO 2005-068702 A1 (KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.) 28 July 2005

2.1 Novelty and Inventive Step

2.1.1 Independent Claim 1

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from D1-D5 in a process for making a stretch-bonded elastic nonwoven composite including the steps of hydroentangling the fibers of the hydrophilic fibrous layer into the elastic stretched, apertured film-based, stretch-bonded nonwoven laminate layer to produce a hydroentangled stretch-bonded elastic nonwoven composite that is absorbent to both aqueous and oil-based liquids. And it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art by D1-D5, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 1 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) with respect to novelty and inventive step.

2.1.2 Dependent Claims 2-14

Claims 2-14 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

Continued on Supplemental Box

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The unit of pressure ("psi") employed in claim 11 is not additionally expressed in terms of the units stipulated by PCT Rule 10.1(a).

The unit of measure ("inch") employed in claim 12 is not additionally expressed in terms of the units stipulated by PCT Rule 10.1(a).

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 7-8, 10-14 and 18 include obscure expressions such as "about", which render the determination of the exact scope of the claims difficult, contrary to PCT Article 6.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of : Box No. V

2.1.3 Independent Claim 15

The subject matter of claim 15 differs from D1-D5 in a stretch-bonded elastic nonwoven composite including a machine-direction elastic apertured film-based, stretch-bonded laminate layer that has been hydroentangled throughout all of its laminate layers with a hydrophilic fibrous layer. And it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art by D1-D5, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 15 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) with respect to novelty and inventive step.

2.1.4 Dependent Claims 16-18

Claims 16-18 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 15 and therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

2.1.5 Independent Claim 19

The subject matter of claim 19 is substantially the same as that of claim 1 except in the invention category. Accordingly, claim 19 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) with respect to novelty and inventive step.

2.1.6 Independent Claim 20

The subject matter of claim 20 is substantially the same as that of claim 19 except in the type of invention. Accordingly, claim 20 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) with respect to novelty and inventive step.

2.2 Industrial Applicability

Claims 1-20 are industrially applicable under PCT Article 33(4).