

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:
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Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **05 January 2016 (05.01.2016)**

Applicant's or agent's file reference 64963371PC04		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/US2015/051819	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 September 2015 (24.09.2015)	Priority date(day/month/year) 29 September 2014 (29.09.2014)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F 13/15(2006.01)i, A61F 13/49(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 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon, 35208, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. +82-42-472-7140	Date of completion of this opinion 16 November 2015 (16.11.2015)	Authorized officer Han, Inho Telephone No. +82-42-481-3362
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US2015/051819

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
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US2015/051819

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 :

2.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 5820616 A (HORNEY, J. C.) 13 October 1998

D2: US 5460624 A (AHR, N. A. et al.) 24 October 1995

D3: US 4938756 A (SALEK, J. E.) 03 July 1990

D4: US 2005-0049569 A1 (TRACY, R.) 03 March 2005

D5: US 2013-0338620 A1 (SPEAK, J.) 19 December 2013

2.2 Novelty and Inventive Step

D1 discloses an absorbent article, comprising: a first absorbent article having a periphery comprising a pair of end edges and a pair of longitudinal edges, a body facing surface and a garment facing surface, said first absorbent article comprising a liquid pervious first topsheet, a liquid impervious first backsheet joined to said first topsheet, and a first absorbent core positioned between said first topsheet and said first backsheet; a second absorbent article having a periphery comprising a pair of end edges and a pair of longitudinal edges, a body facing surface and a garment facing surface, said second absorbent article comprising a liquid pervious second topsheet, a liquid impervious second backsheet joined to said second topsheet, a second absorbent core positioned between said second topsheet and said second backsheet, and a pair of side flaps comprising at least a portion of said second backsheet, said side flaps being folded in over said second topsheet and said side flaps being releasably secured to said first backsheet of said first absorbent article; and a securement means positioned onto each said flap for directly attaching said second absorbent article to said first absorbent article, such that at least a portion of said first backsheet and at least a portion of said second backsheet are releasably and directly secured to one-another by said securement means (see claims 1-8).

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Supplemental Box

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Continuation of : Box No. V

The subject-matter of claim 1 relates to a multiple use absorbent article comprising: a chassis absorbent unit having a chassis topsheet, a chassis backsheet, and a chassis absorbent core sandwiched between the chassis topsheet and the chassis backsheet; and an absorbent insert bonded to the chassis absorbent unit, a removable portion of the absorbent insert configured to be selectively removable from the chassis absorbent unit, wherein the absorbent insert comprises an insert topsheet, an insert backsheet, and an insert absorbent core sandwiched between the insert topsheet and the insert backsheet, the absorbent insert further including a line of weakness that provides for separation of the absorbent insert into a removable portion configured to be removed from the chassis absorbent unit, and a resident portion that remains bonded to the chassis absorbent unit. None of the prior art documents disclose or suggest the absorbent insert further including the line of weakness that provides for separation of the absorbent insert into the removable portion configured to be removed from the chassis absorbent unit, and the resident portion that remains bonded to the chassis absorbent unit of the present invention. Accordingly, the subject-matter of claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious to a person skilled in the art by the prior art documents, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 1 is novel under PCT Article 33(2) and inventive under PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 2-17 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

The subject-matter of claim 18 relates to a multiple use absorbent article comprising a chassis absorbent unit having a liquid permeable chassis topsheet, a liquid impermeable chassis backsheet, and a chassis absorbent core sandwiched between the chassis topsheet and the chassis backsheet; and an absorbent insert bonded to the chassis absorbent unit, a removable portion of the absorbent insert configured to be selectively removable from the chassis absorbent unit, wherein the absorbent insert comprises an insert topsheet, an insert backsheet, and an insert absorbent core sandwiched between the insert topsheet and the insert backsheet, the insert absorbent core sealed by a peripheral sealing region between the insert topsheet and the insert backsheet adjacent at least a peripheral edge of the insert topsheet and the insert backsheet; the absorbent insert further including a line of weakness disposed within the peripheral sealing region that provides for separation of the absorbent insert into a removable portion configured to be removed from the chassis absorbent unit, and a resident portion that remains bonded to the chassis absorbent unit. None of the prior art documents disclose or

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suggest the absorbent insert further including the line of weakness disposed within the peripheral sealing region that provides for separation of the absorbent insert into the removable portion configured to be removed from the chassis absorbent unit, and the resident portion that remains bonded to the chassis absorbent unit of the present invention. Accordingly, the subject-matter of claim 18 is neither anticipated nor obvious to a person skilled in the art by the prior art documents, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 18 is novel under PCT Article 33(2) and inventive under PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 19 and 20 are dependent on claim 18 and therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

2.3 Industrial Applicability

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