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*(via online filing)*

## **International application No. PCT/EP2023/077108**

Applicant: Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag

### **Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19 PCT**

In relation to the above-mentioned application and in response to the Notification of transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority dated 16. April 2024, amended claims and statement under Article 19 PCT are filed herewith

### **Statement under Article 19(1) PCT**

Amended claims are submitted herewith on replacement sheets 24, 25 and 26 which are supposed to replace the correspondingly numbered pages on file. The pages are marked "replacement sheet". Merely for ease of reference, additionally one annotated version of the pages is submitted which shows which amendments were made to the claims. This annotated version of the pages is merely for the file and not for replacing additional pages.

The following amendments were made:

1. Claims 4 and 5 were amended to refer back to claims 3 and 4, respectively, instead of all preceding claims. These amendments are supported by the claims as originally filed.
2. The word "longitudinal" was corrected in claim 7.
3. The reference number "34" for the "drawstring" in claim 11 was corrected to "32". This amendment is supported e.g. in claim 12 or the reference sign list at page 22 as originally filed.
4. In claim 19, the term "flas-knitted" was corrected to "flat-knitted"

It is evident that the amendments do not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.

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Yours Sincerely,  
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**Encl.** Amended claims (annotated version)  
Amended claims (clean version, Replacement sheet)

## AMENDED CLAIMS (ANNOTATED VERSION)

1. Medical compression article (10) comprising a band (12), the band (12) comprising a flat-knitted fabric (14) having a first layer (16) and a second layer (18);
- 5       - the band (12) comprising an upper portion (20), a lower portion (24) and an intermediate portion (22);
- the first layer (16) and the second layer (18) being interconnected in the upper portion (20) and in the lower portion (24);
- the intermediate portion (22) comprising a tunnel (46) and an opening zone (26), the opening zone (26) comprising a first opening (28) in the first layer (16).
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2. Medical compression article (10) according to claim 1, wherein the flat-knitted fabric (14) is seamless.
3. Medical compression article (10) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the opening
- 15       zone (26) further comprises a region (27) encircling the opening (28), characterized in that the region (27) comprises at least a first integrally-knitted reinforcement means (34).
4. Medical compression article (10) according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 3,
- 20       wherein the region (27) further comprises a second integrally-knitted reinforcement means (35), wherein the first and the second integrally-knitted reinforcement means (34, 35) are positioned on opposite sides of the opening (28), thereby forming a first pair of reinforcement means.
5. Medical compression article (10) according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 4,
- 25       further comprising a third and a fourth reinforcement means (39, 41), the third and the fourth reinforcement means (39, 41) forming a second pair of reinforcement means that are positioned on opposite sides of the first opening (28), wherein preferably the reinforcement means (34, 35) of the first pair are knitted according to a first pattern and the reinforcement means (39, 41) in the second pair are knitted
- 30       according to a second pattern, and wherein the first pattern and the second pattern differ from each other.

6. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the opening (28) is elongated and its longitudinal axis is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tunnel (46).
- 5 7. Medical compression article (10) according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the first opening (28) is elongated and the longitudinal axis of the opening (28) is orthogonal or parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tunnel (46)
- 10 8. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the band (12) is a waistband.
9. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the compression article (10) is a pantyhose.
- 15 10. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the tunnel (46) is provided over the entire length of the intermediate portion (22).
11. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a drawstring (32) extending through the tunnel (46).
- 20 12. Medical compression article (10) according to claim 11, wherein the drawstring (32) extends through the tunnel (46) from a first open end (43) to a second open end (45) of the fabric (14), crosses through the first opening (28) to the outside of the first layer (16) and back into the tunnel (46) through the first opening (28).
- 25 13. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the opening zone (26) comprises a second opening (30).
14. Medical compression article (10) according to claim 10, wherein the first opening (28) and the second opening (30) are spaced-apart from about 0.5 to about 2 cm.
- 30 15. Medical compression article (10) according to claims 13 or 14, wherein the intermediate portion (22) comprises a drawstring (32) extending through the tunnel (46) from a first open end (43) to a second open end (45) of the fabric (14) and crosses through the first opening (28) to the outside of the first layer (16) and then back into the tunnel (46) through the second opening (30).
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16. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the drawstring (32) is elastic.
- 5 17. Medical compression article according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the opening zone (26) is in a middle section of the intermediate portion (22).
18. Medical compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the upper portion (20) and the lower portion (24) comprise an inlay thread (60).
- 10 19. Method of manufacturing a compression article (10) according to any of the preceding claims, comprising the steps of:
- providing a flat-knitted fabric (14) for a band (12), wherein the flat-knitted fabric (14) comprises with a first layer (16) and a second layer (18), the first layer (16) and the second layer (18) being interconnected in an upper portion (20) and a lower portion (24) of the band; the first layer (16) and the second layer (18) defining a tunnel (46) and an opening zone (26) on an intermediate portion (22); the tunnel (46) having a first open end (43) and a second open end (45);
  - 15 - inserting an input portion of a drawstring (32) into the first open end (43);
  - 20 - connecting and closing the first open end (43) with the second open end (45), preferably by sewing.
20. Method according to claim 19, comprising a step of knitting the flat-knitted fabric (14).
- 25 21. Method according to any of claims 19 or 20, wherein the flat-knitted fabric (14) is seamless.
- 30 22. Flat-knitted fabric (14) for use in the compression article (10) of any of claims 1 to 18, the knitted fabric (14) comprising an open-ended enclosure for forming a tunnel (46) extending from a first longitudinal edge (42) of the flat-knitted fabric (14) to a second longitudinal edge (44).