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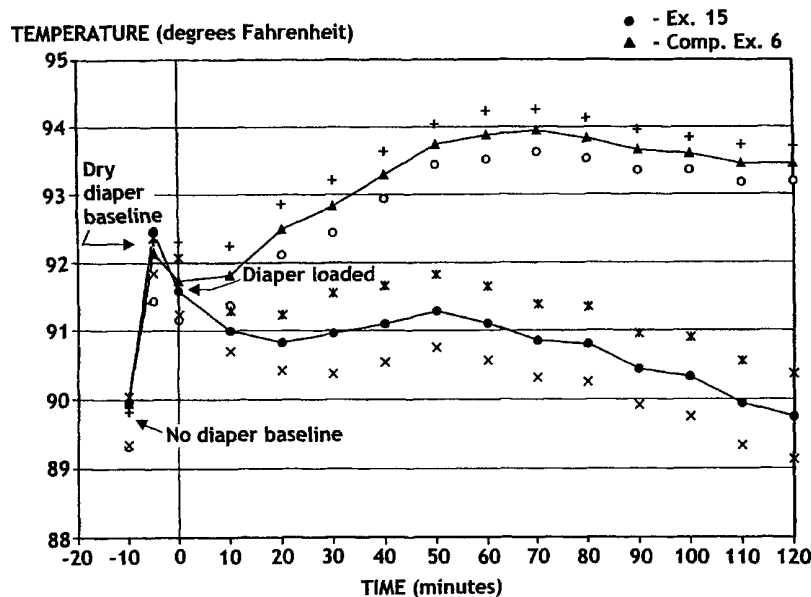
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- Published:**  
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
15 November 2001

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE WHICH MAINTAINS SKIN TEMPERATURE WHEN WET



(57) Abstract: An absorbent article includes a vapor permeable backsheets, a liquid permeable topsheet positioned in facing relation with the backsheets; and an absorbent body located between the backsheets and the topsheet. The absorbent body may include multiple zones of high air permeability. The absorbent article may also include a ventilation layer between the absorbent body and the backsheets and a surge management layer between the absorbent body and the topsheet. The article exhibits improved air exchange within the article during use. As a result, the article maintains the temperature and exhibits substantially reduced levels of hydration of the wearer's skin when in use which renders the skin less susceptible to the viability of microorganisms.



WO 01/08620 A3



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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.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/19933

**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, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 887 056 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) page 17, line 45 -page 18, line 32 ---	1, 10, 19
A	EP 0 813 848 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 29 December 1997 (1997-12-29) page 11, line 40 -page 13, line 42 ---	1, 10, 19
A	WO 97 36561 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 9 October 1997 (1997-10-09) page 15, line 10 -page 18, line 22; claims ---	1, 10, 19
A	WO 97 45259 A (CURRO JOHN JOSEPH ;OSTAPCHENKO GEORGE JOSEPH (US); VAIDYA SHAILAJA) 4 December 1997 (1997-12-04) page 35, line 35 -page 38, line 4; claims ---	1, 10, 19
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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.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 November 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

01. 06. 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In. .ational Application No  
PCT/US 00/19933

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2 308 814 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 9 July 1997 (1997-07-09) page 21, line 20 -page 30, line 40; claims -----	1,10,19
A	EP 0 797 968 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 1 October 1997 (1997-10-01) page 5, line 46 -page 6, line 4; claims -----	1,10,19

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US 00/19933

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: 1-31 (all in part)  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-31 (all in part)

Present claims 1-31. relate to a product defined by reference to the following parameter:

(P1: Wet Skin Temperature/Dry Skin Temperature Ratio according to a test as set forth herein)

The use of this test for defining the above parameter in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to: The parts relating to the embodiments mentioned in the description at pages 6-25 and only to the ranges of the parameters as set in the claims independently of the testing method used.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Information on patent family members

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