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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.

(54) Title: FLEXIBLE SUPERABSORBENT BINDER POLYMER COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: A process of making the flexible superabsorbent binder polymer composition includes preparing a preneutralized monomer solution having at least about 40mol% degree of neutralization, preparing a monomer solution including monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, one of which includes an alkiloxysilane functionality, preparing initiator system solutions and adding the solutions to the monomer solution, mixing the foregoing solutions into a polymerization solution, cooling the polymerization solution, and post neutralizing the polymer.
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C08F220/00

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

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C08F

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

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No</th>
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**D** Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

**X** See patent family annex

- **Special categories of cited documents**
  - **X** 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
  - **Y** 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
  - **Y** member of the same patent family

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

10 September 2007

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

14/09/2007

**Name and mailing address of the ISA/**

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**Authorized officer**

Rouault, Yannick
Continuation of Box 11.2

Claims Nos.: -

The different independent claims do not contain the same technical features and it is therefore not clear if said independent claims try to solve the same problem. Taking into account the cited prior art, it is not possible to identify which one of the technical features is an essential technical feature. The examples and comparative examples are more specific and restricted than the claims (e.g., use of multifunctional and not monofunctional alkoxy silane as in claim 1). The comparative examples seem to fall under the definition of the claims. Moreover, some independent claims relate to a product which has a given desired property, namely the unsaturated monomer content or the solid content. However, the description does not provide support and disclosure in the sense of Article 6 and 5 PCT for any such product having the said property and there is no common general knowledge of this kind available to the person skilled in the art. This non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent, that the search was performed taking into consideration the non-compliance in determining the extent of the search of the claim (PCT Guidelines 9.19 and 9.20).

The search of the claims was consequently restricted to the broad concept of the product.

Due to the lack of clarity, it was not possible to define the different groups of invention and to make at this stage the non-unity objection.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that 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. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.
**Box II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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. [X] Claims Nos.
   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 III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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.
<table>
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<th>Patent document cited in search report</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
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<tr>
<td>US 2004106721 A1</td>
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