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(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE SATURATION INDICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

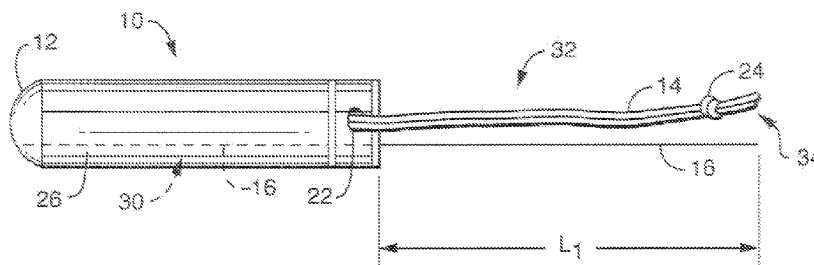


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An absorbent article includes an absorbent body in contact with a moisture activatable shrinking yarn in the form of a metering string. The metering string includes a hanging portion that is at least initially visible to a user when the absorbent article is in use. By observing the change in length of the hanging portion, a user wearing the absorbent article can determine how saturated the absorbent article has become. The metering string may be used with absorbent articles such as tampons and diapers.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61F 13/42(2006.01)i, A61F 13/51(2006.01)i, A61F 13/20(2006.01)i*

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: indicate, indicator, change, signal, meter, string, yarn, diaper, tampon

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 11-104178 A (UNI CHARM CORP) 20 April 1999 See abstract; paragraphs [008]-[010]; figure 2.	1,2,4
A	EP 1216673 A1 (SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB) 26 June 2002 See abstract; paragraphs [0032]-[0080]; figure 1.	1-20
A	US 2003-0023214 A1 (ANTHONY DISALVO et al.) 30 January 2003 See abstract; paragraphs [0028]-[0064]; figures 1-17.	1-20
A	US 6596919 B2 (KARLA E WILLIAMS) 22 July 2003 See abstract; column 2 line 4-column 4 line 3; figures 1-2.	1-20

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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