

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 July 2007 (05.07.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/075643 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

A01N 59/16 (2006.01) A01P 1/00 (2006.01)
A01N 59/26 (2006.01) C08G 64/04 (2006.01)
A01N 25/10 (2006.01) C08K 3/32 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2006/048370

(22) International Filing Date:

19 December 2006 (19.12.2006)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

11/318,961 27 December 2005 (27.12.2005) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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: TRANSPARENT THERMOPLASTIC ANTIMICROBIAL MOLDING COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: A transparent antimicrobial thermoplastic molding composition is disclosed. The composition contains aromatic polycarbonate resin and 0.01 to 3.8 of an antimicrobial compound conforming to formula (I) $Ag_a M_b^1 M_2^2 (PO_4)_3$ (I) wherein M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion, M^2 a tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, and where a and b are positive numbers where $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence of M^1 , the percent being relative to the weight of the polycarbonate. The composition is suitable for molding articles having good appearance and surface qualities.



WO 2007/075643 A1

**TRANSPARENT THERMOPLASTIC ANTIMICROBIAL
MOLDING COMPOSITION**

5 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

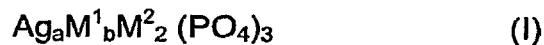
The invention relates to a thermoplastic, transparent molding composition and in particular to an antimicrobial composition.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Inorganic, silver containing antimicrobial compounds are known. Relevant disclosures were made in U.S. Patent 4,938,955 that disclosed an antibiotic resin composition containing antibiotic zeolite. U.S. Patent 5,698,212 disclosed an antimicrobial polymer composition containing a polymer and an antimicrobial coat of an aluminosilicate on the surface of
15 silica gel. U.S. Patent 5,698,229 disclosed an antimicrobial composition that contains a presently relevant inorganic compound and a benzotriazole as a discoloration inhibitor. The antimicrobial polymer composition disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,827,524 included a crystalline silicon dioxide containing silver ions and one or two optional metal ions selected from the
20 group consisting of zinc and copper as antimicrobial composition.

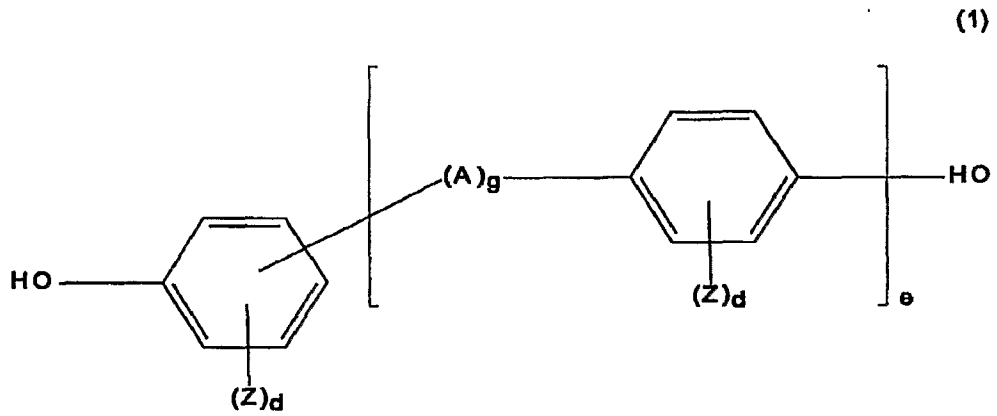
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A transparent antimicrobial thermoplastic molding composition is disclosed. The composition contains aromatic polycarbonate resin and
25 0.01 to 3.8 of an antimicrobial compound conforming to formula (I)



wherein M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion, M^2 a
30 tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, and where a and b are positive numbers where $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence

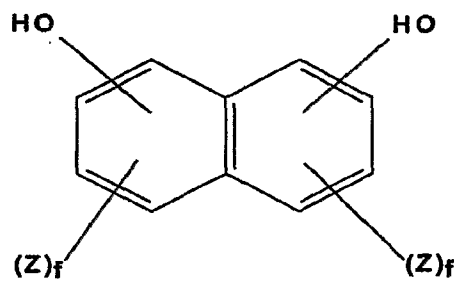
In the present context, dihydroxy compounds suitable for the preparation of the polycarbonates of the invention conform to the structural formulae (1) or (2).



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(2)

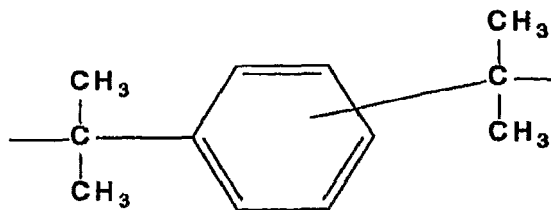
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wherein

A denotes an alkylene group with 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an
 alkylidene group with 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene group with 5 to
 15 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylidene group with 5 to 15 carbon atoms, a
 20 carbonyl group, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO- or -SO₂ or a radical
 conforming to



5

e and g both denote the number 0 to 1;

Z denotes F, Cl, Br or C₁-C₄-alkyl and if several Z radicals are substituents in one aryl radical, they may be identical or different from one another;

10

d denotes an integer of from 0 to 4; and

f denotes an integer of from 0 to 3.

Among the dihydroxy compounds useful in the practice of the invention are hydroquinone, resorcinol, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-alkanes, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-ethers, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-ketones, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-sulfoxides, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-sulfides, bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-sulfones, and α,α -bis-(hydroxyphenyl)-diisopropylbenzenes, as well as their nuclear-alkylated compounds. These and further suitable aromatic dihydroxy compounds are described, for example, in U.S. Patents 15 5,105,004; 5,126,428; 5,109,076; 5,104,723; 5,086,157; 3,028,356; 2,999,835; 3,148,172; 2,991,273; 3,271,367; and 2,999,846, all incorporated herein by reference.

20

Further examples of suitable bisphenols are 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propane (bisphenol A), 2,4-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-methyl-butane, 1,1-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-cyclohexane, α,α' -bis-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-p-diisopropylbenzene, 2,2-bis-(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-methane, 2,2-bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-sulfide, bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-sulfoxide, bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-sulfone, dihydroxy-

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benzophenone, 2,4-bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-cyclohexane, α,α' -bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-p-diisopropyl-benzene and 4,4'-sulfonyl diphenol.

- 5 Examples of particularly preferred aromatic bisphenols are 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, 1,1-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-cyclohexane and 1,1-bis-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane.
- 10 The most preferred bisphenol is 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane (bisphenol A).

The polycarbonates of the invention may entail in their structure units derived from one or more of the suitable bisphenols.

15

Among the resins suitable in the practice of the invention are polyestercarbonate based on resorcinol and bisphenol A (registry number 265997-77-1), phenolphthalein-based polycarbonate, copolycarbonates and terpoly-carbonates such as are described in U.S. Patents 6,306,507, 20 3,036,036 and 4,210,741, all incorporated by reference herein.

The polycarbonates of the invention may also be branched by condensing therein small quantities, e.g., 0.05 to 2.0 mol % (relative to the bisphenols) of polyhydroxyl compounds.

25

Polycarbonates of this type have been described, for example, in German Offenlegungsschriften 1,570,533; 2,116,974 and 2,113,374; British Patents 885,442 and 1,079,821 and U.S. Patent 3,544,514. The following are some examples of polyhydroxyl compounds which may be used for 30 this purpose: phloroglucinol; 4,6-dimethyl-2,4,6-tri-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-heptane; 1,3,5-tri-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-benzene; 1,1,1-tri-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-ethane; tri-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-phenylmethane; 2,2-bis-[4,4-(4,4'-

dihydroxydiphenyl)]-cyclohexyl-propane; 2,4-bis-(4-hydroxy-1-isopropylidene)-phenol; 2,6-bis-(2'-dihydroxy-5'-methylbenzyl)-4-methylphenol; 2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid; 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(2,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-propane and 1,4-bis-(4,4'-dihydroxytriphenylmethyl)-benzene.

- 5 Some of the other polyfunctional compounds are 2,4-dihydroxy-benzoic acid, trimesic acid, cyanuric chloride and 3,3-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroindole.

10 In addition to the polycondensation process mentioned above, other processes for the preparation of the polycarbonates of the invention are polycondensation in a homogeneous phase and transesterification. The suitable processes are disclosed in the incorporated herein by reference, U.S. Patents 3,028,365; 2,999,846; 3,153,008; and 2,991,273.

15 The preferred process for the preparation of polycarbonates is the interfacial polycondensation process. Other methods of synthesis in forming the polycarbonates of the invention, such as disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,912,688, incorporated herein by reference, may be used.

20 Suitable polycarbonate resins are available in commerce, for instance, from Bayer MaterialScience LLC under the Makrolon trademark.

The antimicrobial agent entailed in the inventive composition conforms to formula (I)



wherein

30 M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion,

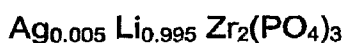
M^2 a tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, preferably Zr,

and

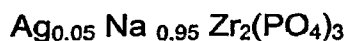
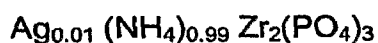
a and b are positive numbers where $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence of M^1 .

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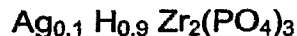
Examples of the suitable phosphates include:



10



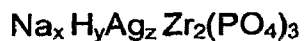
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Especially suitable is a compound conforming to



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where $x+y+z = 1$.

A suitable phosphate may be prepared as follows:

Oxalic acid is added to an aqueous solution of zirconium oxynitrate and

30

sodium nitrate with stirring and then phosphoric acid is added. The pH of the reaction mixture is adjusted to 3.5 with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution and refluxed with heating for 78 hours. The precipitate is filtered,

washed with water, dried and ground to obtain zirconium phosphate that is then immersed in an aqueous solution containing silver ion at a suitable concentration to obtain the compound represented by formula 1.

5 Suitable commercial antimicrobial agents are available from Milliken Chemical Co. as Alphasan RC 5000 and Alphasan RC 2000. The bound water in hydrated forms of the antimicrobial agent e.g. $Ag_aM^1_bM^2_2(PO_4)_3 \cdot nH_2O$ (where n is a positive number up to 6) are driven off in the course of compounding and/or thermoplastic processing.

10

The inventive composition may contain additional functional components including such as mold release agents, colorants, hydrolytic stabilizers, radiation stabilizers, UV absorbers, antioxidants, surfactants, foaming agents, fillers, extenders, flame retardants and reinforcing agents.

15 Additionally optionally included are other resins provided their inclusion does not degrade the transparency of the inventive composition – these include one or more of thermoplastic polyesters (e.g. PET, PBT, PCTG, PCT, PETG, and PTT) and vinyl polymers (e.g. PMMA, SAN, ABS, EPDM, MBS, Poly butyl acrylate)

20

In the preferred embodiments the inventive compositions contain no benzotriazoles.

25 Thermoplastic compositions that contain the antimicrobial agent and are translucent or opaque are not within the scope of the invention.

The antimicrobial composition of the present invention is prepared by mixing the antimicrobial agent with or without the conventional additives noted above in the polycarbonate resin. The procedure and apparatus for
30 making the composition are conventional and are well known in the art.

The composition of the present invention may be used in preparing useful articles by any method of thermoplastic processing including injection molding and extrusion.

5 The invention is explained in more detail by the following examples.

In preparing the exemplified composition the polycarbonate used was a bisphenol-A based homopolycarbonate resin, Makrolon 2458 polycarbonate a product of Bayer MaterialScience LLC, characterized in
10 that its melt flow index per ASTM D 1238 is 20g/10 min.

The exemplified compositions contained the indicated amount and type of antimicrobial compound.

15 The antimicrobial compounds used in the experiments were:

Antimicrobial compound 1 (AM1): soluble glass containing silver - Inopure IZA, a product of Izhizuka Glass Ltd.

20 Antimicrobial compound 2 (AM2): soluble glass containing silver- Inopure IPL, a product of Izhizuka Glass Ltd.

Antimicrobial compound 3 (AM3): zeolite containing silver- Agion AJ, a product of Agion.

25

Antimicrobial compound 4 (AM4): zeolite containing silver- Agion XAJ, a product of Agion.

30 Antimicrobial compound 5 (AM5): ceramic containing silver- Sanitized BC A 21-61, a product of Sanitized AG.

Antimicrobial compound 6 (AM6): Alphasan RC 2000.

The table below describes the makeup and relevant properties of the exemplified compositions:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ^(c)
AM1, wt%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM2, wt%	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM3, wt%	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM4, wt%	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM5, wt%	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM6, wt%	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.5	1	2	4	8	-
Properties												
20° gloss	75	63	65	88	92	118	110	91	76	66	48	172
Surface appearance (2)	P	P	S	S	P	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Transparency ⁽³⁾	C	C	O	O	C	C	C	C	C	T	O	C
Resolution scale ⁽¹⁾	316	100	n/a	n/a	316	316	316	300	211	100	n/a	316
Resolution ⁽⁴⁾	+	0	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	+
Gloss ⁽⁵⁾	0	-	-	+	+	++	++	+	0	-	-	++
Pitting ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5 (c) – control

- (1) Resolution is measured using a chart that includes closely spaced lines with light spaces between them. The more lines that can be distinguished in a given area, the better the resolution. In the present context, a flat test specimen 0.1" thick made of the composition to be evaluated, is positioned 0.1" above the surface of the chart and the number of lines per inch that can be resolved in a measure of resolution. Resolution chart comply with ISO 12233 standard.
- 10 (2) P denotes pitted surface; S denotes a smooth surface.
- (3) C = clear; O= opaque; T= translucent.
- 15 (4) Resolution: " + " means greater than 211 lines /inch;" 0" means 35 to 211 lines /inch; " - " means less than 35 lines /inch.

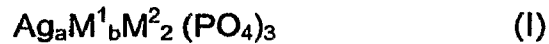
- (5) The gloss ratings – determined in accordance with ASTM D 2457- are as follows: “0 “ means 70-79; “+” means 80-99; “++” means greater than 100; “-” means 60-69; and “-- ” means less than 60.
- (6) The pitting ratings determined by observation are as follows: “0
5 “means no pitting; “-“ means pitted.

The results show the inventive antimicrobial composition to exhibit better gloss, surface appearance and surface quality than corresponding compositions differing only in terms of their respective antimicrobial
10 compounds.

Although the invention has been described in detail in the foregoing for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose and that variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art
15 without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention except as it may be limited by the claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transparent thermoplastic molding composition comprising aromatic polycarbonate resin and 0.01 to 3.8 of an antimicrobial
5 compound conforming to formula (I)



wherein M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion, M^2 a
10 tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, a and b are positive numbers and $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence of M^1 , the percent being relative to the weight of the polycarbonate.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial compound is
15 present in an amount of 0.1 to 3.5 percent.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein antimicrobial compound is a member selected from the group consisting of $\text{Ag}_{0.005}\text{Li}_{0.995}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.01}(\text{NH}_4)_{0.99}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{Na}_{0.95}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.2}\text{K}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$;
20 $\text{Ag}_{0.1}\text{H}_{0.9}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{H}_{0.05}\text{Na}_{0.90}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; and $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{H}_{0.55}\text{Na}_{0.40}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$.

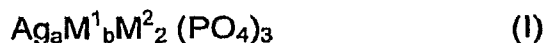
4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein antimicrobial compound conforms to



where $x+y+z = 1$.

5. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 1.

30 6. A transparent thermoplastic molding composition comprising aromatic polycarbonate resin and 0.1 to 3.5 of an antimicrobial compound conforming to formula (I)

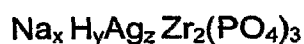


wherein M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion, M^2 a
 5 tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, a and b are positive numbers and $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence of M^1 , the percent being relative to the weight of the polycarbonate, said composition including no benzotriazole.

10 7. The composition of Claim 6 wherein antimicrobial compound is a member selected from the group consisting of $\text{Ag}_{0.005}\text{Li}_{0.995}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.01}(\text{NH}_4)_{0.99}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{Na}_{0.95}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.2}\text{K}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.1}\text{H}_{0.9}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{H}_{0.05}\text{Na}_{0.90}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$; and $\text{Ag}_{0.05}\text{H}_{0.55}\text{Na}_{0.40}\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$.

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8. The composition of Claim 6 wherein antimicrobial compound conforms to

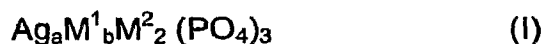


where $x+y+z = 1$.

20

9. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 6.

10. A thermoplastic molding composition characterized by its high transparency comprising aromatic polycarbonate resin and 0.1 to 3.5 of an
 25 antimicrobial compound conforming to formula (I)



wherein M^1 is at least one ion selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion and hydrogen ion, M^2 a
 30 tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and Sn, a and b are positive numbers and $a+mb=1$ where m is a valence of M^1 , the

percent being relative to the weight of the polycarbonate, said composition including no benzotriazole, said transparency determined as at least 211 lines per inch in accordance with ISO 12233 standard on a flat test specimen 0.1" thick.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2006/048370

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A01N59/16 A01N59/26 A01N25/10 A01P1/00 C08G64/04
C08K3/32

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)

A01N C08G C08K

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.
X	DATABASE WPI Week 200007 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 2000-075769 XP002434272 & JP 11 323117 A (TEIJIN KASEI LTD) 26 November 1999 (1999-11-26) abstract -----	1-10
Y	DATABASE WPI Week 199844 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 1998-510257 XP002434273 & JP 10 221177 A (TERUMO CORP) 21 August 1998 (1998-08-21) abstract -----	1-10
	-/--	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 May 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/06/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Klaver, Jos

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2006/048370

G(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 698 229 A (OHSUMI SHUICHI [JP] ET AL) 16 December 1997 (1997-12-16) cited in the application column 2, lines 45-56 column 3, lines 15-20 column 4, lines 17-56 -----	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/048370

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			FR 2692755 A1	31-12-1993
			GB 2268063 A	05-01-1994