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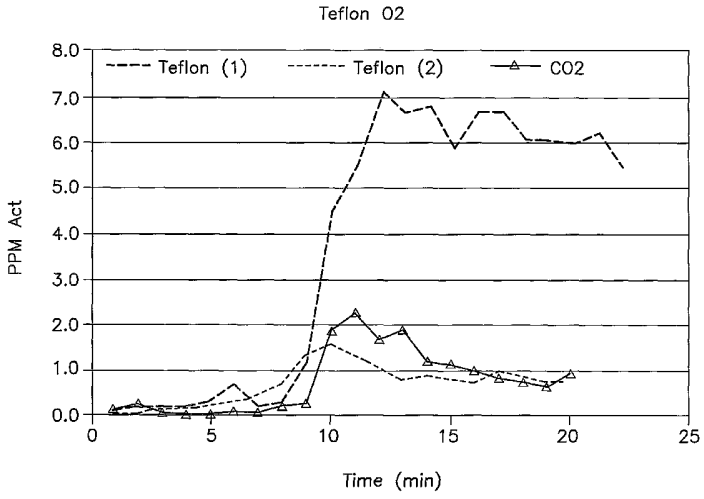
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRETREATMENT OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for pretreating a polymeric material in a treatment chamber (12). The method includes providing a polymeric material component into the treatment chamber (12) and introducing a carbon dioxide fluid in supercritical state therein. The component is exposed to the carbon dioxide fluid to extract non-volatile organic residue contained in the component. The contaminated carbon dioxide fluid containing the extracted non-volatile organic residue is removed from the treatment chamber such that the organic residue does not deposit onto the polymeric material component by depressurizing the treatment chamber. Thereafter, the component is removed from the treatment chamber (12).

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— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC: 134/2,26,30,35,36,42;526/72

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 134/2,26,30,35,36,42;526/72

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 03/049167 (INOUE et al) 12 June 2003 (12.06.2003), abstract, and Figure, claims 1-9.	1-13

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

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