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Maufacture of wet laid nonwoven webs.

A method for forming a non-woven fabric web by wet-laying fibers on paper-making equipment, the web comprising staple length natural or synthetic fibers and wood cellulose paper-making fibers wherein a water furnish of the fibers is made up with a nonionic associative thickener in the absence of a conventional surfactant. A preferred associative thickener for use with hydrophobic fibers is a non-ionic urethane block copolymer having a polyethylene glycol backbone, the associative thickener acting as both surfactant and thickener. With predominately cellulosic fibers, i.e. conventional wood cellulose fibers, or a mixture of conventional and contorted wood fibers, and synthetic cellulosic fibers, such as rayon, a nonionic hydroxyethyl cellulose having a long alkyl side chain is preferred. Excellent

consistency of the water fiber dispersion is obtained at relatively low viscosity with rapid drainage of water from the wire and uniform formation of the non-woven fabric.



EP 88 30 2889

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	GB-A-1049675 (CROWN ZELLERBACH) * claims 1-6 *	1, 3, 6-8	D21F11/00 D21H21/06
X,Y	US-A-3325345 (SHIBLEY A.HIDER) * column 3, lines 64 - 66; claims 1-8 *	1, 2, 6-8	
Y	GB-A-2068034 (GRACE) * claims 1-20 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			D21F D21H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29 AUGUST 1990	Examiner FOQUIER J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			