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(54) **Heat-retaining, moisture-permeable, waterproof fabrics**

(57) Disclosed is a heat-retaining, moisture-permeable, waterproof fabric having a highly moisture-absorbing and releasing organic fine particles immobilized on at least one surface of an unprocessed fabric (base fabric) with a moisture-permeable waterproof resin, said fabric (processed fabric) being capable of achieving a difference in the hygroscopic degree (ΔA) as represented by the following equation (1) and a difference in the temperature of heat generated by absorption of moisture (ΔT) as represented by the following equation (2):

$$\Delta A = A(95) - A(20) \geq 3 (\%) \quad (1)$$

wherein A (95) represents a moisture absorption ratio (%) of the processed fabric as measured after being left to stand for 24 hours at a relative humidity of 95% (20°C), and A (20) represents a moisture absorption ratio (%) of the processed fabric as measured after being

left to stand for 24 hours at a relative humidity of 20% (20°C); and

$$\Delta T = T(\text{sample}) - T(\text{blank}) \geq 0.5 (^\circ\text{C}) \quad (2)$$

wherein T (sample) represents the surface temperature of the processed fabric as measured after the fabric is absolutely dried, adjusted to a temperature of 32°C in an absolute dry condition and held for 10 seconds in an environment of 70% RH and 32°C, and T (blank) represents the surface temperature of the unprocessed fabric (base fabric) as measured after the fabric is absolutely dried, adjusted to a temperature of 32°C in an absolute dry condition and held for 10 seconds in an environment of 70% RH and 32°C.

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 99 10 1487

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.6)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			D06N D06M
INCOMPLETE SEARCH The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims. Claims searched completely : Claims searched incompletely : Claims not searched : Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 September 2000	Examiner Fiocco, M
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			

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INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C

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Claim(s) searched completely:

7

Claim(s) searched incompletely:

1,4-6,8-11

Claim(s) not searched:

2,3

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Present claims 1-3 relate to a product defined (inter alia) by reference to the following parameters:

DeltaA: difference in hygroscopic degree; and
DeltaT: difference in the temperature of heat generated by
absorption of moisture (as defined
by the applicant).

The use of these parameters in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 84 EPC. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to the products described in the examples, which all correspond to the products claimed in present claim 7.

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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T	EP 1 006 228 A (MIZUNO KK ;NIHON DESHIKANTO KABUSHIKI KAI (JP)) 7 June 2000 (2000-06-07) * paragraph '0012! - paragraph '0015! * * column 11, line 13 - line 17 * -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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