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(54) Wetsuit

(57) A wetsuit structure (10) having a zip (15) extending from a neck opening (14) of the wetsuit and down that portion of the wetsuit which, in use, will at least surround the upper part of the torso (11) of a wearer of the wetsuit. A barrier panel (16) of stretchable, substantially water proof, material is attached within the interior of the wetsuit adjacent to, and underlying, at least a major portion of the length of the zip. The wetsuit structure also has a detachable neck or collar (17) of stretchable, substantially water proof, material adapted, in use, to be pulled over the head of the wearer whilst stretching in the process, but then relaxing to fit relatively tightly into sealing engagement around the neck of the wearer, and a series of studs (18, 19) to detachably connect the neck or collar to the body of the wetsuit. The neck or collar (17) may be a simple neck or collar, or be formed as part of a hood which, in use, will fit around the head of the wetsuit wearer with an opening therethrough in the facial region of the wearer.

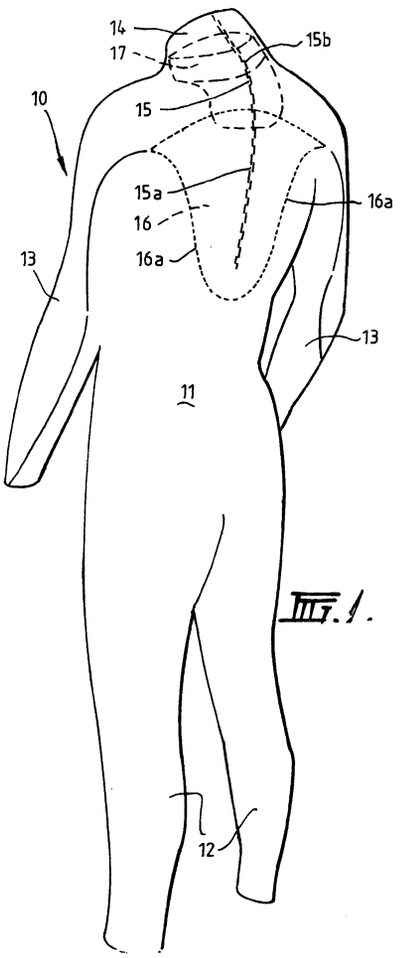


Fig. 1.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 00 0358

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.7)
X Y	WO 99 52765 A (O'NEILL INC) 21 October 1999 (1999-10-21) * figures 3,4 * * page 4, line 21 - page 5, line 2 *	1 3	B63C11/04
X	US 5 191 658 A (MEISTRELL WILLIAM R) 9 March 1993 (1993-03-09) * claim 1; figures 2,3 * * column 2, line 18 - line 22 * * column 2, line 67 - column 3, line 2 *	1	
X Y	DE 35 42 323 C (R & S SURF- & SPORTWEAR GMBH) 4 June 1987 (1987-06-04) * figures * * column 2, line 67 - column 3, line 25 *	2,4,6 3	
A	US 5 196 240 A (STOCKWELL GREGG M) 23 March 1993 (1993-03-23) * figures 4,5,15 * * column 1, line 9 * * column 5, line 24 - line 34 * * column 8, line 47 - column 9, line 2 *	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B63C A41D
A	US 4 253 198 A (ESTABROOK JAMES R) 3 March 1981 (1981-03-03) * figures * * column 3, line 9 - line 13 * * column 3, line 60 - line 62 *	1,5,6	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	26 September 2003	Häusler, F.U.

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

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 02 00 0358

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1,3-9

   Wetsuit with waterproof barrier panel underlying zipper

2. Claims: 2,4-9

   Wetsuit with detachable stretchable neck or collar

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 02 00 0358

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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26-09-2003

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82