

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 17 MAR 2005

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP 03/13830 | International filing date (day/month/year) 03.12.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 19.12.2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06L1/12 | | |
| Applicant UNILEVER N.V. | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

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| Date of submission of the demand 24.04.2004 | Date of completion of this report 17.03.2005 |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016 | Authorized Officer Fiocco, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4538  |

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/13830

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-37 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

6-10 as originally filed

1-5 received on 22.11.2004 with letter of 19.11.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-10 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | |
| | No: Claims | 1-10 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-10 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D2: US-A-3 689 211 (GIAMPALMI JOHN J JR ET AL) 5 September 1972 (1972-09-05)

D3: WO 00/36206 A (3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES CO) 22 June 2000 (2000-06-22)

2 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

The document **D2** discloses (cf. **example 1**) a dry cleaning process comprising the step of contacting a laundry article with a composition. The liquor-to-cloth ratio can be calculated as follows: liquor= about 51 gal, corresponding to about 311 kg; clothes= 108 lbs, corresponding to 49 kg; liquor-to-cloth ratio= $311/49= 6.3$. The surfactant-to-cloth ratio can be calculated as follows: anionic surfactant: 45 wt.% of 0.0625 gal= about 0.16 kg; surfactant-to-cloth ratio= $0.16/49= 0.0033$.

Hence, the subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known dry cleaning process in that the solvent does not contain chlorine.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to provide a dry cleaning process which reduces the damage to the environment.

The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: solvents without chlorine have been employed for the same purpose in a similar process, see e.g. document **D3**, page 1, line 26 - page 3, line 18. It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to a process according to document D2, thereby arriving at a process according to claim 1.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-10

Dependent claims 2-10 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step.

EPO - DG 1

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22. 11. 2004

Claims

(71)

1. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning comprising a
5 dry cleaning step of contacting a laundry article with a dry
cleaning composition whereby the liquor to cloth ratio (w/w)
(LCR) is at most ¹⁰~~20~~, and said composition comprises a non-
flammable, anionic, non-chlorine containing organic dry cleaning solvent
and surfactant, whereby the surfactant to cloth ratio (w/w) is
10 at most ~~0.12~~ 0.08.
2. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to
claim 1 whereby dry cleaning composition comprises water and
the water to cloth ratio (w/w) is less than 0.45, preferably.
15 less than 0.20.
3. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to
claim 1 wherein the dry cleaning composition is a low aqueous
dry cleaning composition comprising 0.01 to 10 wt%, preferably
20 0.01 to 0.9 wt.% of water by weight of the total dry cleaning
composition.
4. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to
any one of the preceding claims wherein the dry cleaning
25 composition comprises from 0.001 to 10 wt.%, preferably from
0.05 to 0.9 wt.% of surfactant by weight of the total dry
cleaning composition.
5. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to
30 any one of the preceding claims whereby said liquid to cloth
ratio (w/w) is at most ~~18~~ 7.