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IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO

Applicant : Bose Corporation
Serial No. : PCT/US2018/033133
Filed : May 17, 2018
Title : BREATHABLE EARPIECES

International Bureau of WIPO

34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

INFORMAL COMMENTS

In response to the Invitation to Provide Informal Clarification (“Invitation”) dated August 9, 2018, please see the following remarks for the record.

REMARKS

Applicant would like to submit the following informal comments in response to the Invitation.

With respect to Examiner’s comment that there are “many independent claims,” please begin the search with independent claim 1, then expand to independent claim 28, and then expand to the remaining independent claims if no prior art is found.

With respect to Examiner’s comment that there are “many alternatives” of elastomers and agents, please begin the search with: (1) elastomers listed in claim 18 (e.g., silicone) and (2) agents listed in claim 8 (cross-linked polyacrylic acid, polyamide, cross-linked carboxymethylcellulose, cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol, or derivatives thereof). If the Examiner still deems that the agents listed in claim 8 are broad, please begin the search with agents listed in claim 9 (i.e., polyacrylic acid crosslinked with allyl sucrose, allyl pentaerythritol, or divinyl glycol; or polyacrylic acid with C10-30 alkyl acrylate cross-linked with allyl pentaerythritol). Please expand the search to other agents such as those listed in claims 10 and 13 if no prior art is found.

With respect to Examiner’s request for clarification on how exactly is the physical quantity “water permeability” measured, Applicant would like to point the Examiner to paragraph [028] of the specification, which indicates that Permeability measurement can be

obtained using the ASTM E96 Standard Test Methods for water vapor transmission of material. Applicant also discloses an example of the schematic apparatus used for the permeability measurement in Figure 7. Applicant submits that a person skilled in the art reading the specification, including Figure 7, would know that the permeability measurement can be obtained using a similar apparatus as that shown in Figure 7.

The Examiner requests that the Applicant describe how to achieve a water permeability of between 20 g/(hr*m²) and more than 500 g/(hr*m²). Applicant would like to direct the Examiner to figure 4, which shows that silicone incorporated with certain additives can have a water or sweat permeability of greater than about 20 g/(hr*m²). Figure 5 shows an example of elastomer treated with NaCl fine powder or NaCl macro-crystals. The elastomer treated with macro-crystals has permeability of greater than 500 g/(hr*m²).

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be examined in light of the specification as explained above.

Applicant requests that the International Bureau of WIPO transmits a copy of this response to the designated offices along with a copy of the aforementioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 5, 2018

/Annie J. King/

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