

Auxiliary request 1

Claims

5 1. An absorbent article comprising:

a chassis including a topsheet and a backsheet joined to the topsheet and an absorbent core located between the topsheet and the backsheet, the chassis having a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region located between the front waist region and the back waist region, a longitudinal axis extending through the front and back waist regions and a lateral axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis; wherein said absorbent article comprises a barrier cuff strip extending in a longitudinal direction from the front waist region to the back waist region along the topsheet, the barrier cuff strip including a front end at the front waist region, a back end at the back waist region and proximal and distal edges connecting the front end and the back end, the barrier cuff strip distal edge being attached to the topsheet at a cuff end bond region having an outer bond edge at the front end of the barrier cuff strip and an inner bond edge spaced longitudinally from the outer bond edge, the inner and outer bond edges being located in the front waist region; and

15 characterized in that said absorbent article comprises a side panel extending laterally beyond a side of the chassis and joined to the chassis at the back waist region at a panel joint region extending between an outer panel joint edge and an inner panel joint edge, the side panel comprising an elastically stretchable material;

wherein the side panel is formed separately from the absorbent assembly and affixed to the absorbent assembly;

20 wherein a longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner panel joint edge is at least $\frac{4}{3}$ of a longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner bond edge of the cuff end bond region, the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner panel joint edge and the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner bond edge of the cuff end bond region being measured with the absorbent assembly folded at the lateral axis.

30 ~~2. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner panel joint edge is at least $\frac{1}{2}$, preferably at least $\frac{3}{4}$, of the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner bond edge of the cuff end bond region.~~

32. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner panel joint edge is at least equal, preferably greater, to the longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner bond edge of the cuff end bond region.

43. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the inner panel joint edge is spaced longitudinally from the inner bond edge of the cuff bond region a distance of 30 mm or less.