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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

PACKED BREAST MILK ABSORBENT PAD AND METHOD FOR PACKING

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001]

The present invention relates a packed breast milk absorbent pad and a method for packing.

RELATED ART

10 [0002]

There have conventionally been proposed packed breast milk absorbent pads provided in the form of an assembly comprising a breast milk absorbent pad itself and an individual pad packing envelope wherein the pad itself is composed of an
15 absorbent structure having its outer surface covered with a leak-barrier sheet and the pad packing envelope temporarily fastens the pad packed therein.

[0003]

For example, JP2000-309391A, JP3657537B1 and
20 JP2001-88866A mentioned later disclose the packed breast milk absorbent pad comprising the individual packing envelope and the twofold breast milk absorbent pad packed therein, the packed breast milk absorbent pad comprising the elongated band-like

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individual packing envelope and a pair of breast milk absorbent pads packed therein side-by-side in the same orientation and the packed breast milk absorbent pad comprising the individual packing envelope and a pair of breast milk absorbent pads packed
5 therein so as to be stacked upon each other in opposite orientations.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

[0004]

10 However, in any of the packed breast milk absorbent pads disclosed in JP2000-309391A, JP3657537B1 and JP2001-88866A, neither the end nor the side edge of the breast milk absorbent pad packed in the individual packing envelope is present in the vicinity of the pad unpacking outlet. Consequentially, the
15 heat-sealed edge of the individual packing envelope must be broken to pick out the pad from the individual packing envelope.

[0005]

The individual packing envelope having been broken is no more useful, after the breast milk absorbent pad has been used,
20 to put again the used pad thereinto for disposal.

[0006]

An object of the present invention is to provide a packed breast milk absorbent pad and a method of packing allowing the

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breast milk absorbent pad to be easily unpacked from the individual packing envelope so that the same individual packing envelope can be used as the envelope to put again the used pad thereinto for disposal.

5 MEASURE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

[0007]

The present invention to achieve the object set forth above has two aspects.

[0008]

10 The present invention relates to, in an aspect thereof, an improvement in a packed breast milk absorbent pad comprising a breast milk absorbent pad having upper and lower ends, a skin-contactable surface as well as a skin-noncontactable surface and an individual packing envelope packing the breast
15 milk absorbent pad therein.

[0009]

The first aspect of the present invention is defined by features as will be described below.

[0010]

20 The individual packing envelope is formed of a packing sheet having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, first and second side edges extending in the longitudinal direction, and first and second ends extending in the transverse

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direction wherein the packing sheet is divided by imaginary first and second folds extending in the transverse direction from the first end to the second end and spaced apart from each other in the longitudinal direction into imaginary first,
5 second and third regions.

[0011]

The breast milk absorbent pad has first and second sections defined by folding the pad into two with the skin-contactable surface inside, and a temporary fastening zone
10 formed by adhesives on the skin-noncontactable surface of the first section aside toward the upper end in order to fasten the breast milk absorbent pad to an associated brassiere.

[0012]

The first region of the packing sheet is folded back
15 toward the skin-noncontactable surface in the first section of the breast milk absorbent pad, then temporarily fastened, in this folded state, to a peel ply provided on an inner surface of the first section of the packing sheet by the temporary fastening zone, and the third region of the packing sheet is
20 folded back toward the second region.

[0013]

The first, second and third regions are sealed together along the first and second side edges of the packing sheet to

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form seal lines.

[0014]

A second aspect of the present invention to solve the object set forth above relates to an improvement in a method
5 for packing a breast milk absorbent pad comprising a breast milk absorbent pad having upper and lower ends, a skin-contactable surface as well as a skin-noncontactable surface into an individual packing envelope formed of a packing sheet.

[0015]

10 The second aspect of the present invention comprises steps as will be described below.

[0016]

Providing, as stock material for the individual packing envelope, a heat-sealable packing sheet having a longitudinal
15 direction, a transverse direction, first and second side edges extending in the longitudinal direction, and first and second ends extending in the transverse direction.

[0017]

Defining imaginary first, second and third regions on the
20 packing sheet by imaginary first and second folds extending in the transverse direction from the first end to the second end and spaced apart from each other in the longitudinal direction.

[0018]

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Laying the breast milk absorbent pad upon the packing sheet so as to extend astride the first fold in the longitudinal direction and thereby to lie on both the first and second regions of the packing sheet, then folding the third region of the packing sheet along the second fold toward the second region, and thereafter folding the first region of the packing sheet together with the breast milk absorbent pad along the first fold toward the second region so as to fold the breast milk absorbent pad into first and second sections whereupon the first region of the packing sheet is temporarily fixed to the skin-noncontactable surface of the breast milk absorbent pad in the first section thereof aside toward the upper end by intermediary of a temporary fastening zone formed by a pressure-sensitive adhesive on the skin-noncontactable surface for temporarily fixing the breast milk absorbent pad to an associated brassiere, and by intermediary of a peel ply formed on the first region of the packing sheet on the surface thereof opposed to the temporary fastening zone.

[0019]

Sealing the first and second regions of the packing sheet together along the first and second side edges thereof so as to form seal lines.

[0020]

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The first aspect of the present invention includes preferred embodiments as will be described below.

[0021]

The third region of the packing sheet is folded back
5 toward the second region of the sheet so that a distal end of the third region extends between the first section and the second section of the breast milk absorbent pad.

[0022]

The peel ply is formed from a release coated sheet
10 permanently fastened to the inner surface of the first region of the packing sheet by means of a permanent fastening zone formed by adhesive.

[0023]

The peel ply is formed by coating of adhesive.

15 [0024]

An end of the permanent fastening zone for the releasable sheet aside toward the upper end of the breast milk absorbent pad extends outward beyond an end of the temporary fastening zone aside toward the upper end of the breast milk absorbent
20 pad.

[0025]

A peel strength of the releasable sheet with respect to the temporary fastening zone is in a range of 0.1 to 0.5 N and

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a peel strength of the seal along the first and second side edges of the packing sheet is in a range of 1.0 to 2.2 N.

[0026]

The first end of the packing sheet defining the unpacking
5 outlet of the breast milk absorbent pad is temporarily bonded to an outer surface of the third region of the sheet.

[0027]

The first end of the packing sheet defining said unpacking outlet of the breast milk absorbent pad is free rather than being
10 temporarily bonded to the outer surface of the third region of said sheet.

[0028]

According to the second aspect of the present invention, the seal is preferably provided in the form of heat seal.

15 EFFECT OF THE INVVENTION

[0029]

The packed breast milk absorbent pad according to the present invention primarily characterized in that a temporary fastening zone of the breast milk absorbent pad with respect
20 to the individual packing envelope, i.e., in a vicinity of the pad unpacking outlet in order that the breast milk absorbent pad alone can be easily taken out from the envelope merely by pulling the upper end of the breast milk absorbent pad. For

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further benefit, there is no or substantially no possibility that the envelope might be torn when the pad is unpacked from the envelope and, after the pad has been used, the envelope can be utilized as the envelope for the used pad for disposal.

5 [0030]

In the embodiment wherein the peel ply is formed by coating of adhesive, the peel ply can be formed without use of the releasable sheet and the cost can be correspondingly saved.

[0031]

10 In the embodiment wherein an end of the permanent fastening zone for the releasable sheet aside toward the upper end of the breast milk absorbent pad extends outward beyond an end of the temporary fastening zone aside toward the upper end of the breast milk absorbent pad, it is ensured that the breast
15 milk absorbent pad can be easily peeled off from the envelope so as to leave the releasable sheet on the peel ply of the envelope when the breast milk absorbent pad is unpacked from the envelope.

[0032]

20 In the embodiment wherein a peel strength of the releasable sheet with respect to the temporary fastening zone is in a range of 0.1 to 0.5 N and a peel strength of the seal along the first and second side edges of the packing sheet is

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in a range of 1.0 to 2.2 N, it is unlikely that the sealed zones might be unsealed or the envelope might be torn when the breast milk absorbent pad is detached from the releasable sheet and unpacked from the envelope.

5 [0033]

The packing method according to the present invention conveniently permits the breast milk absorbent pad to be folded into two at the same time the first region of the packing envelope is folded onto the second region of the packing envelope.

10 Compared to the case in which the breast milk absorbent is previously folded into two, the process of packing is advantageously simplified.

[0034]

In the embodiment wherein the seal is provided in the form
15 of heat seal, the cost can be lowered in comparison with the case in which the sealing is achieved by use of adhesive.

[0035]

In the embodiment wherein the first end of the packing sheet defining the unpacking outlet for the breast milk
20 absorbent pad is temporarily bonded to the outer surface of the third region of the sheet, there is no anxiety that dust might enter into the pad after the step of bonding in the process of making the pad.

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[0036]

In the embodiment wherein the first end of the packing sheet defining the unpacking outlet for the breast milk absorbent pad is free from the outer surface of the third region
5 of the sheet, the step of bonding the first end is not required.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0037]

[FIG. 1] Fig. 1 is a partially cutaway perspective view of a packaged breast milk absorbent pad.

10 [FIG. 2] Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line II-II in Fig. 1.

[FIG. 3] Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the breast milk absorbent pad with a skin-noncontactable surface thereof lying in the figure's plane.

15 [FIG. 4] Fig. 4 is a developed plan view of an envelope for individually packing the pad.

[FIG. 5] Fig. 5 is a schematic sectional view showing another embodiment of the packaged pad.

[FIG. 6] Fig. 6 is a schematic sectional view showing
20 still another embodiment of the packaged pad.

[FIG. 7] Fig. 7 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2, showing further another embodiment.

IDENTIFICATION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS USED IN THE DRAWINGS

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[0038]

- 1 packaged breast milk absorbent pad
- 2 breast milk absorbent pad
- 2A first section
- 5 2B second section
- 3 packing envelope
- 3A packing sheet
- 11 temporary fastening zone
- 11a end
- 10 13 permanent fastening zone
- 13a end
- 12 releasable sheet
- 15a first side edge
- 15b second side edge
- 15 16a first end
- 16b second end
- 17 first fold
- 18 second fold
- 19 first region
- 20 20 second region
- 21 third region
- 23 pressure-sensitive adhesive zone
- 24 pad unpacking outlet

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26a, 26b seal line

30 peel ply

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEST MODE FOR WORKING OF THE INVENTION

[0039]

5 The present invention will be described hereunder on the basis of preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0040]

Fig. 1 is a partially cutaway perspective view of a
10 packaged breast milk absorbent pad, Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line II-II in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the breast milk absorbent pad with a skin-noncontactable surface lying in the figure's plane.

[0041]

15 Referring to Fig. 1, a packaged breast milk absorbent pad 1 comprises a breast milk absorbent pad 2 and an individual packing envelope 3.

[0042]

Referring now to Fig. 2, the breast milk absorbent pad
20 2 comprises a body fluid absorbent layer 4 and a body fluid leak-barrier sheet 5 (i.e., outer sheet). The absorbent layer 4 comprises, in turn, a body fluid absorbent structure 6 and a body fluid pervious inner sheet 7 covering an inner surface

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of the body fluid absorbent structure 6. The absorbent structure 6 comprises, in turn, a body fluid absorbent core 8.

[0043]

The core 8 comprises fluff pulp fibers as a base material
5 and super-absorbent polymer particles or the like mixed with the fluff pulp fibers so as to form a panel having a basis weight preferably in a range of 200 to 300 g/m². While not illustrated, it is particularly preferred to cover the core 8 with a body fluid spreadable shape retaining sheet in order to prevent the
10 polymer particles from falling off.

[0044]

The inner sheet 7 is laid so as to face and come in contact with the wearer's skin and made of a thermoplastic synthetic fibrous nonwoven fabric, preferably such as a spun bond or
15 air-through nonwoven fabric having a basis weight preferably in a range of 10 to 35 g/m². The inner sheet 7 is intermittently coated with a hot melt adhesive (not shown) by which the inner sheet 7 is kept to cover the absorbent structure 6.

[0045]

20 The skin-noncontactable surface of the absorbent structure 6 is covered with the body fluid leak-barrier sheet (i.e., the outer sheet) 5 which is preferably made of a plastic film having a thickness in a range of 30 to 100 μ m or a

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thermoplastic synthetic fibrous nonwoven fabric, particularly a spun bond/melt blown/spun bond (SMS) laminated nonwoven fabric having a basis weight of 10 to 35 g/m², or a composite sheet consisting of these plastic film and nonwoven fabric.

5 [0046]

The breast milk absorbent pad 2 is folded into two in such a manner that upper and lower ends 10a, 10b (See Fig. 3) are placed upon each other and the inner sheet 7 lies inside so as to define first and second sections 2A, 2B. The outer sheet
10 5 in the first section 2A is provided aside toward the upper end 10a of the pad 2 with a temporary fastening zone 11 formed by a pressure-sensitive adhesive (hot melt adhesive) in order that the pad may be reliably held against any undesirable displacement with respect to a brassiere. The temporary
15 fastening zone 11 is covered with a releasable sheet 12 which is, in turn, permanently fixed to the inner surface of the individual packing envelope 3 by a permanent fastening zone 13 formed by a hot melt adhesive. In this way, the temporary fastening zone 11 is separable from the releasable sheet 12.
20 A finger grip zone 14 is defined between the upper end 10a and the temporary fastening zone 11. This finger grip zone 14 is appropriately dimensioned so that the upper end 10a of the breast milk absorbent pad 2 can be held by the wearer's fingers

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without touching the temporary fastening zone 11 when the wearer's unpacks the breast milk absorbent pad 2 from the envelope.

[0047]

5 An end 13a of the permanent fastening zone 13 on the side of the upper end 10a of the pad 2 preferably extends beyond an end 11a of the permanent fastening zone 11 toward the upper end 10a of the pad 2. This is for the reason as follows: Intending to unpack the pad 2 out from the envelope 3 by gripping the upper
10 end 10a with the fingers of the wearer's one hand, the wearer may often hold a first region 19 of the envelope 3 with the fingers of the other hand. In this case, a peel force is exerted directly upon the end 11a of the temporary fastening zone 11 in the course of unpacking the pad 2 from the envelope 3 since
15 the end 13a of the permanent fastening zone 13 extends beyond the end 11a of the temporary fastening zone 11 toward the upper end 10a of the pad 2. In other words, assumed that the end 11a of the temporary fastening zone 11 extends beyond the end 13a of the permanent fastening zone 13 toward the upper end 10a of
20 the pad 2, the peel force will be exerted upon the end 13a of the permanent fastening zone 13 lying adjacent to the upper end 10a of the pad 2 and make it difficult to peel the temporary fastening zone 11 off from the releasable sheet 12.

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[0048]

Fig. 4 is a developed plan view of the individual packing envelope 3. As will be apparent from Fig. 4, the individual packing envelope 3 is made of a flexible and heat-sealable packing sheet 3A which is substantially rectangular as viewed in a direction X. The individual packing envelope 3 is contoured by first and second side edges 15a, 15b, first and second ends 16a, 16b, and divided into imaginary first, second and third regions 19, 20, 21 divided by imaginary first and second folds 17, 18 spaced apart one from another in the direction X. The third region 21 has a dimension in the direction X smaller than the first and second regions 19, 20 have.

[0049]

The packing sheet 3A preferably comprises a plastic film having a thickness in a range of 30 to 100 μm , or preferably comprises a thermoplastic synthetic fibrous nonwoven fabric having a basis weight in a range of 10 to 35 g/m^2 , particularly such as a spun bond/melt blown/spun bond (SMS) laminated nonwoven fabric, or a laminate consisting of these plastic film and nonwoven fabric.

[0050]

Using the individual packing envelope 3 formed from the

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packing sheet 3A in the manner as has been described above, the breast milk absorbent pad 2 is packed therein in a manner as will be described below.

[0051]

5 Referring to Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the breast milk absorbent pad 2 is placed upon the packing sheet 3A so that a fold 22 (See Fig. 3) along which the breast milk absorbent pad 2 is to be folded into two may lie just on the first fold 17 of the packing sheet 3A, the first and second sections 2A, 2B of the breast
10 milk absorbent pad 2 may lie respectively on the first and second regions 19, 20 of the packing sheet 3A and the temporary fastening zone 11 may be fixed to the permanent fastening zone 13 previously formed on the packing sheet 3A by intermediary of the releasable sheet 12. From such a state, the third region
15 21 of the packing sheet 3A is folded back with a distal end of this third region 21 placed on the second section 2B of the breast milk absorbent pad 2, then the assembly is folded into two so that the first region 19 of the packing sheet 3A may be folded back toward the second region 20 and simultaneously the first
20 section 2A of the pad 2 may be folded back just above the second section 2B of the pad 2.

[0052]

The packing sheet 3A having been folded in this manner

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is then subjected to a heat-sealing treatment along the first and second side edges 15a, 15b to form seal lines 26a, 26b and the first end 16a of the packing envelope 3A is temporarily bonded to the opposed outer surface of the third region 21 of the packing sheet 3A by a pressure-sensitive adhesive zone 23 formed by hot melt adhesive so as to define a pad unpacking outlet 24.

[0053]

In the embodiment according to which the first end 16a defining the unpacking outlet 24 is sealed by the pressure-sensitive adhesive zone 23, it is unlikely that dust might enter into the envelope.

[0054]

Alternatively, the first end 16a may be free instead of bonding to the outer surface of the third region 21.

[0055]

In this case, the step of bonding the first end 16a to the third region 21 may be saved.

[0056]

The individual packing envelope 3 is formed from the packing sheet 3A in the manner as has been described above and then the pad 2 is packed therein in the twofold state. In the state of the pad 2 packed in this manner, first and second access

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sites 25A, 25B are defined within the envelope 3 so that respective portions of the pad 2 in vicinities of the upper and lower ends 10a, 10b thereof may occupy these access sites 25A, 25B.

5 [0057]

The pad 2 packed in the envelope 3 in this manner may be unpacked from the bag 3, for example, by handling as will be described below (See Fig. 2). Specifically, the wearer may hold the first end 16a of the first region 19 and pull this first
10 end 16a upward as viewed in Fig. 2 to peel the adhesive zone 23 off in the embodiment according to which the first region 19 and the third region 21 are bonded together along the ends thereof (handling of such peeling off is not required in the embodiment according to which the adhesive zone 23 is not
15 provided) until an opening defined between the first and third regions 19, 21 are sufficiently broadened. Then the upper end 10a of the pad 2 may be held and pulled rightward as viewed in Fig. 2 to unpack the pad 2 from the envelope 3 through the pad unpacking outlet 24 (the first case).

20 [0058]

Alternatively, without further broadening the opening defined between the first and third regions 19, 21, the wearer's fingers may be inserted into the envelope 3 through the

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unpacking outlet 24, the upper end 10a of the pad 2 may be held with the wearer's fingers and pulled rightward as viewed in Fig. 2 to unpack the pad 2 through the pad unpacking outlet 24 (the second case). In this case, a relatively high shearing force is exerted on the first region 19 instead of the peel force as in the first case. In view of this, it is preferred to use materials having a relative high tensile strength as the packing sheet 3A.

[0059]

10 In an embodiment schematically illustrated by Fig. 5 is distinguished from the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 in that the third region 21 underlies the pad 2. In this case, it is possible to bond the third region 21 to the second region 20 by hot melt adhesive 27.

15 [0060]

Fig. 6 is a schematic sectional view of the packed breast milk absorbent pad. Referring to Fig. 6A, the pad 2 is provided in the first and second sections 2A, 2B with the temporary fastening zones 11 while referring to Fig. 6B, the temporary fastening zone 11 continuously extends in the longitudinal direction.

[0061]

The temporary fastening zone 11 may extend over the

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substantially entire outer surface of the pad 2 except the first end 16a of the packing sheet 3A so far as at least a part thereof is present in a vicinity of the upper end 10a of the pad 2. While not illustrated, a plurality of the temporary fastening zones 11 may be arranged along at least one of the upper and lower ends 10a, 10b of the pad 2 in the transverse direction of in the longitudinal direction so far as at least a part thereof is present in the vicinity of the upper end 10a of the pad 2.

[0062]

10 Fig. 7 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2, illustrating another embodiment. The packing sheet 3A is coated on its inner surface with a release agent such as silicone to form a peel ply 30 and the temporary fastening zone 11 is fixed directly to this peel ply 30. In this case, the releasable sheet 12 is 15 not necessary for actual use of the pad.

[0063]

For bonding and attachment of the respective components, adhesives such as hot melt adhesive and pressure-sensitive adhesive, and heat-sealing techniques may selectively 20 utilized.

[0064]

A peel strength of the releasable sheet 12 with respect to the temporary fastening zone 11 is preferably in a range of

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0.1 to 0.5 N allowing the pad 2 to be peeled off from the envelope 3 without damaging the sealed line along the first and second side edges 15a, 15b of the packing sheet 3A.

[0065]

5 A peel strength of the seal lines 26a, 26b along the first and second side edges 15a, 15b of the packing sheet 3A is preferably in a range of 1.0 to 2.2 N. If the peel strength is 1.0 N or less, there is a possibility that the seal lines 26a, 26b might be broken at the same time as seal of the pad
10 unpacking outlet 24 is broken in order to unpack the pad 2. If the peel strength is 2.2 N or higher, there is an anxiety that the packing sheet 3A might be damaged.

[0066]

 The peel strength is measured using Universal Material
15 Tester available from INSTRON JAPAN by a method as will be described below.

<Peel Strength of the releasable sheet with respect to the temporary fastening zone>

 After the product has been left for 30 min at a temperature
20 of 20°C and a humidity of 60% for stabilization, the seal line 26 is removed from the product, the first region 19 is cut away. The upper end 10a of the pad 2 and the first end 16a of the packing sheet 3A fastened to the pad 2 or the end of the releasable sheet

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12 aside toward the pad unpacking outlet 24 are held by chucks
(a distance between chucks: 20 mm and a tensile rate: 500 mm/min)
to measure the maximum load. Five measurements according to
this method are repeated and an average value is obtained as
5 the peel strength of the releasable sheet 12 with respect to
the temporary fastening zone 11.

<Peel Strength of the seal line>

After the product has been left for 30 min at a temperature
of 20°C and a humidity of 60% for stabilization, a test piece
10 defined by a dimension of 25 mm measured from the seal line 26
at the pad unpacking outlet 24 in a direction in which the seal
line 26 is to be peeled off and a dimension of 75 mm measured
from the seal line 26 toward a center of the product is cut away
from the product. Of the test piece having cutaway from the
15 product in this manner, the first and second ends 16a, 16b of
the packing sheet 3A are held by chucks (a distance between
chucks: 30 mm and a tensile rate: 300 mm/min) to measure the
maximum load. Five measurements according to this method are
repeated and an average value is obtained as the peel strength
20 of the seal line 26.

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C L A I M S

[1] A packed breast milk absorbent pad (1) comprising:

a breast milk absorbent pad (2) having upper and lower
5 ends (10a, 10B), a skin-contactable surface (7) as well as a
skin-noncontactable surface (5); said pad being characterized
in that:

an individual packing envelope (3) packing said breast
milk absorbent pad therein;

10 said individual packing envelope being formed of a
packing sheet (3A) having a longitudinal direction (X), a
transverse direction (Y), first and second side edges (15a, 15b)
extending in said longitudinal direction, and first and second
ends (16a, 16b) extending in said transverse direction;

15 said packing sheet being divided by imaginary first and
second folds (17, 18) extending in said transverse direction
from said first end to said second end and spaced apart from
each other in said longitudinal direction into imaginary first,
second and third regions (19, 20, 21);

20 said breast milk absorbent pad further having first and
second sections (2A, 2B) defined by folding said pad into two
with said skin-contactable surface (7) inside, and a temporary
fastening zone (11) formed by adhesive on said

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skin-noncontactable surface of said first section aside toward said upper end in order to fasten said breast milk absorbent pad to an associated brassiere;

said first region of said packing sheet being folded back
5 toward said skin-noncontactable surface in said first section of said breast milk absorbent pad, then temporarily fastened, in this folded state, to a peel ply (30) provided on an inner surface of said first section of said packing sheet by said temporary fastening zone, and said third region of said packing
10 sheet being folded back toward said second region; and

said first, second and third region being sealed together along said first and second side edges of said packing sheet to form seal lines (26a, 26b).

15 [2] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by Claim 1, wherein said third region of said packing sheet is folded back toward said second region of said sheet so that a distal end of said third region extends between said first section and said second section of said breast milk absorbent pad.

20

[3] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by Claim 1 or 2, wherein said peel ply is formed by a releasble sheet permanently fastened to the inner surface of said first region

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of said packing sheet by a permanent fastening zone (13) formed by adhesive.

[4] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by any
5 one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein said peel ply is formed by coating of adhesive.

[5] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by any
one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein an end of said permanent
10 fastening zone for said releasable sheet aside toward said upper end of said breast milk absorbent pad extends outward beyond an end of said temporary fastening zone aside toward said upper end of said breast milk absorbent pad.

15 [6] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by any one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein a peel strength of said releasable sheet with respect to said temporary fastening zone is in a range of 0.1 to 0.5 N and a peel strength of the seal along said first and second side edges of said packing sheet
20 is in a range of 1.0 to 2.2 N.

[7] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein said first end of said packing

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sheet defining said unpacking outlet for said breast milk absorbent pad is temporarily bonded to an outer surface of said third region of said sheet.

5 [8] The packed breast milk absorbent pad as defined by any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein said first end of said packing sheet defining said unpacking outlet for said breast milk absorbent pad is free rather than being temporarily bonded to the outer surface of said third region of said sheet.

10

[9] A method for packing a breast milk absorbent pad comprising a breast milk absorbent pad (2) having upper and lower ends (10a, 10b), a skin-contactable surface (7) as well as a skin-noncontactable surface (5) into an individual packing envelope (3) formed of a packing sheet (3A), said method comprising the steps of:

providing, as stock material for said individual packing envelope, a heat-sealable packing sheet (3A) having a longitudinal direction (X), a transverse direction (Y), first and second side edges (15a, 15b) extending in said longitudinal direction, and first and second ends (16a, 16b) extending in said transverse direction;

defining imaginary first, second and third regions (19,

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20, 21) on said packing sheet by imaginary first and second folds (17, 18) extending in the transverse direction from said first end to said second end and spaced apart from each other in said longitudinal direction;

5 laying said breast milk absorbent pad upon said packing sheet so as to extend astride said first fold in said longitudinal direction and thereby to lie on both said first and second regions of said packing sheet, then folding said third region of said packing sheet along said second fold toward
10 said second region, and thereafter folding said first region of said packing sheet together with said breast milk absorbent pad along said first fold toward said second region so as to fold said breast milk absorbent pad into first and second sections (2A, 2B) whereupon said first region of said packing
15 sheet is temporarily fixed to said skin-noncontactable surface of said breast milk absorbent pad in said first section thereof aside toward said upper end by intermediary of a temporary fastening zone (11) formed by a pressure-sensitive adhesive on said skin-noncontactable surface for temporarily fixing said
20 breast milk absorbent pad to an associated brassiere, and by intermediary of a peel ply (30) formed on said first region of said packing sheet on a surface thereof opposed to said temporary fastening zone; and

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sealing said first and second regions of said packing sheet together along said first and second side edges thereof so as to form seal lines (26a, 26b).

- 5 [10] The method as defined by Claim 9, wherein said seal is provided in the form of heat seal.