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DISPOSABLE BODY FLUIDS ABSORBENT GARMENT
WITH DISPOSAL SECURING MEANS

This invention relates generally to a disposable body fluid absorbent garment and more particularly to such a garment provided with means for securing the garment in a rolled up state convenient for disposal thereof.

Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Application No. Sho58-22908 discloses a disposable diaper provided with disposal securing means for securing a diaper in a rolled up or folded state after it has been removed from a wearer. Such disposal securing means are effective to prevent any stained portion of the diaper from being exposed. Therefore, the used diaper can be disposed in a manner which is preferable not only to look at but also from a sanitary viewpoint.

A diaper disclosed in EP 0 732 094 A2 adopts such disposal securing means adapted to be longitudinally stretchable or elastic for disposal of the diaper. Such disposal securing means can be conveniently maintained to be relatively short before its actual use so that the diaper may be put on or removed from a wearer without being obstructed by the presence of the disposal securing means.

Generally, such disposal securing means made of a

stretchable or elastic strip of tape are stretched and secured around the used diaper conveniently rolled up for disposal. Exerted is a force tending to peel an end of the disposal securing means at which the means are fixed to a surface of used diaper off from the surface as the means are stretched. Accordingly, an excessively weak fixation of the end of the disposal securing means may cause this end to be readily peeled off from the used diaper and an excessively firm fixation may cause a sheet forming a surface of the diaper to be torn as the means are stretched, resulting in exposure of an absorbent core of the diaper smeared with excretion and/or leakage of excretion's malodor from the absorbent core.

In view of the problem as has been mentioned above, it is a principal object of the invention to improve the disposal securing means for securing a garment such as the diaper for disposal so that the means can neither be easily peeled off from the garment nor tear the surface of the garment.

The object set forth above is achieved, according to an aspect of the invention, by a disposable body fluids absorbent garment having a skin-contactable surface intended

to be in contact with the skin of a wearer, through which body fluids discharged by the wearer is absorbed by the garment, and a skin-non-contactable surface provided with disposal securing means being stretchable at least in one direction in order to be secured around the garment which has been rolled up for disposal, wherein:

the disposal securing means comprise a substantially non-stretchable first strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, a substantially non-stretchable second strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, and a third strip section having inner and outer surfaces and proximal and free end portions wherein the free end portion is provided on the inner surface of the third strip section with a securing region and including a stretchable extent defined between the proximal and free end portions;

the first and second strip sections have the respective inner surfaces bonded to the skin-non-contactable surface so that these two strip sections are longitudinally aligned with each other and have their respective first end portions longitudinally opposed to each other, the first end portion of the first strip section is connected between the first and second end portions of the second strip section, the third

strip section has the proximal end portion connected to at least one of the respective first end portions of the first and second strip sections, and the securing region provided on the free end portion of the third strip section is separably held against the outer surface of the first strip section in the proximity of its second end portion; and

the first, second and third strip sections have holding forces, respectively, sufficient to remain held against the skin-non-contactable surface against a stretching stress generated in the third strip section as the third strip section is peeled off from the first strip section in the proximity of the second end portion of the first strip section, stretched and held against the skin-non-contactable surface with the securing region, and the respective holding forces are selected so that the holding force of the first strip section is equal to or higher than the holding force of the second strip section.

According to another aspect of the invention, the object set forth above is achieved by a disposable body fluids absorbent garment having a skin-contactable surface intended to be in contact with the skin of a wearer, through which body fluids discharged by the wear is absorbed by the garment, and a skin-non-contactable surface provided with

disposal securing means being stretchable at least in one direction in order to be secured around the garment which has been rolled up for disposal, wherein:

the disposal securing means comprise a substantially non-stretchable strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, and a stretchable strip section having inner and outer surfaces and proximal and free end portions wherein the free end portion is provided on the inner surface of the stretchable strip section with a securing region and having a stretchable extent defined between the proximal and free end portions and bonded in the proximity of the first and second end portions spaced apart from each other to the skin-non-contactable surface;

the stretchable strip section has its proximal end portion connected to the first end portion of the first strip section and the securing region provided on the free end portion separably held against the non-stretchable strip section in the proximity of its second end portion; and

the stretchable strip section and the non-stretchable strip section have holding forces, respectively, sufficient to remain held against the skin-non-contactable surface against a stretching stress generated in the stretchable strip section as the stretchable strip section is peeled off

from the non-stretchable strip section, stretched and held against the skin-non-contactable surface, and the holding force generated in the proximity of the second end portion of the non-stretchable strip section is equal to or higher than the holding force generated in the proximity of the first end portion of the non-stretchable strip section.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a disposable diaper as a disposable body fluids garment according to the invention as partially broken away;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along a line C-C in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the diaper as rolled up;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing another embodiment the invention; and

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing still another embodiment of the invention.

Details of a disposable body fluids absorbent garment according to invention will be more fully understood from the following description of a disposable diaper exemplarily given hereunder in reference with the accompanying drawings.

A disposable diaper 1 shown by Fig. 1 in a perspective view as partially broken away is of a pull-on or shorts-type and comprises a liquid-permeable topsheet 2 formed by a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fibers, a liquid-impermeable first backsheet 3A formed by a thermoplastic synthetic resin film, a second backsheet 3B formed by a nonwoven fabric and intermittently bonded to an outer surface of the first backsheet 3A by means of hot melt adhesive (not shown) and a liquid-absorbent core 4 disposed between the topsheet 2 and the first backsheet 3A. The diaper 1 is composed of a front waist region 6, a rear waist region 7 and a crotch region 8 extending between these two regions 6, 7. The topsheet 2, the first and second backsheets 3A, 3B are substantially identical one to another in their shapes as well as in their sizes and the first and second backsheets 3A, 3B integrally define a backsheet 3. The topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 are bonded to each other by means of hot melt adhesive (not shown) at their portions extending outward beyond a peripheral edge of the absorbent core 4. The front and rear waist regions 6, 7 have their transversely opposite side edges put flat together and welded to each other at a plurality of spots 9 intermittently arranged in the vertical direction so as to define a waist-

opening 11 and a pair of leg-openings 12. The rear waist region 7 is provided on a center line C-C dividing the region 7 in right and left halves with disposal securing means 16 for securing the diaper 1 in a rolled up or folded state after it has been removed from a wearer.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along a line C-C in Fig. 1, showing the disposal securing means 16. The disposal securing means 16 comprise a first strip section 17 having inner and outer surfaces 17A, 17B and first and second end portions 17C, 17D; a second strip section 18 having inner and outer surfaces 18A, 18B and first and second end portions 18C, 18D; and a third strip section 19 having inner and outer surfaces 19A, 19B and proximal and free end portions 19C, 19D. These first, second and third strip sections 17, 18, 19 are identical one to another in their widths.

The first strip section 17 is made of a substantially non-stretchable material extending vertically (horizontally as viewed in Fig. 2) of the diaper 1 with its inner surface 17A being bonded to an outer surface of the second backsheet 3B by means of a first glue layer 21 and a part of its first end portion 17C lying at a lower portion of the diaper 1 being folded upward. Folding upward in this manner causes the first strip section 17 to describe a turn-up line 41. The

first strip section 17 and the second strip section 18 are longitudinally aligned with each other so that the respective first end portions 17C, 18C are opposed to each other and the first end portion 17C is connected to the second strip section 18 at an intermediate location between the first and second end portions 18C, 18D of the second strip section 18.

The second strip section 18 is made of a non-stretchable material and its inner surface 18A is bonded to the outer surface of the second backsheet 3B by means of a second glue layer 22. The folded part 24 of the first strip section 17 is bonded to the inner surface 18A of the first end portion 18C by means of the first and second glue layers 21, 22. The unique manner in which the folded part 24 is bonded to the first end portion 18C allows a turn-up line 41 to be effectively covered with the second strip section 18. The turn-up line 41 covered in this manner is no more angular and therefore never irritates the skin of a wearer.

The third strip section 19 comprises a stretchable portion 27 made of a stretchable material and a non-stretchable portion 28 made of a non-stretchable material. These two portions 27, 28 are bonded to each other by means of a fourth glue layer (or adhesive layer) 29. The proximal end portion 19C of the third strip section 19 corresponds to

a lower end portion (a right end portion as viewed in Fig. 2) and may be connected to the first end portions 17C or 18C of at least one of the first and second strip sections 17, 18. In Fig. 2 the proximal end portion 19C is illustrated as being connected to the first end portion 18C by means of the second glue layer 22. The free end portion 19D of the third strip section 19 includes the non-stretchable portion 28 and extends upwardly of the diaper 1 beyond the second end portion 17D of the first strip section 17 so as to be easily picked up by a user. The inner surface 19A of the free end portion 19D is partially coated with a third glue layer 23 to define a securing region 25 which is, in turn, releasably bonded onto the outer surface 17B of the first strip section 17.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the diaper 1 as secured in a rolled up state using the disposal securing means 16 for disposal of the used diaper 1. With the free end portion 19D held by fingers of a user, the disposal securing means 16 are peeled off from the outer surface 17B of the first strip section 17 and pulled in a direction indicated by an arrow P in Fig. 2 (i.e., upwardly of the diaper 1 as viewed in Fig. 1) to stretch the stretchable portion 27. The disposal securing means 16 thus stretched is

secured around the rolled up diaper 1 and the securing region 25 is held against the diaper 1 at an appropriate location, for example, on the second backsheet 3B. In this way, the disposal securing means 16 enable the diaper 1 smeared with excretion to be ready for disposal without exposing the portions of the diaper smeared with excretion.

In the disposal securing means 16, the stretchable portion 27 of the third strip section 19 is firmly bonded to the non-stretchable portion 28, on one hand, and to the second strip section 18, on the other hand, in a substantially inseparable manner. The second strip section 18 and the first strip section 17 are also bonded to each other in a substantially inseparable manner.

It should be understood that the first strip section 17 and the second strip section 18 are bonded to the outer surface of the second backsheet 3B in a manner as follows: After the third strip section 19 has been peeled off from the first strip section 17, then stretched in the direction P and held at the securing region 25 against the second backsheet 3B of the rolled up diaper 1, the first, second and third strip sections 17, 18, 19 persistently hold their initial places on the second backsheet 3B. Assumed that the sections 17, 18, 19 have holding forces H_1 , H_2 , H_3 , respectively, these

holding forces should be in a relationship of $H_1 \geq H_2$, more preferably in a relationship of $H_3 > H_1 \geq H_2$. In addition, when the disposal securing means 16 are put in the direction, the holding force H_2 of the second strip section 18 should be selected so that the second section 18 may be peeled off from the second backsheet 3B well before the second backsheet 3B is torn and the second backsheet 3B may be substantially free from breakage. The holding force H_1 of the first strip section 17 should be equal to or higher than the holding force H_2 . Once the second strip section 18 has been peeled off, the disposal securing means 16 are held by the first strip section 17 on the second backsheet 3B. Further pulling the disposal securing means 16 from this state in the direction P may cause the first strip section 17 to be partially peeled off from the second backsheet 3B. However, a tension of the disposal securing means 16 being pulled is relaxed as the means 16 continues to be pulled and finally the means 16 ceases to be further peeled off from the second backsheet 3B. These holding forces H_1 , H_2 , H_3 are generated as a result of bonding the respective strip sections 17, 18, 19 to the second backsheet 3B by means of first, second and third glue layers 21, 22, 23, respectively. Levels of the respective holding forces H_1 , H_2 , H_3 can be adjusted by

selecting their adhesive powers and/or selecting areas coated with these glue layers 21, 22, 23. It should be understood here that the holding force H_3 of the third strip section 18 depends on a force with which the securing region 25 is held against the second backsheet 3B. The securing region 25 is preferably constructed so that the requirement of $H_3 > H_1 \geq H_2$ may be satisfied even when the securing region 25 is held against the second backsheet 3B with a slight pressure.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing another embodiment of the disposal securing means 16 according to the invention. According to this embodiment, the first strip section 17 is bonded to the second backsheet 3B by means of the first glue layer 21 and a fifth glue layer 35. The lower part 24 (i.e., the rightmost part as viewed in Fig. 2) 24 of the first strip section 17 is bonded to the second strip section 18 by means of heat-sealing and the proximal end portion 19C of the third strip section 19 is also bonded to the second strip section 18 by means of heat-sealing. Accordingly, these strip sections 17, 18, 19 are bonded one to another in a substantially inseparable fashion. The holding force H_1 of the first strip section 17 for the second backsheet 3B can be considered to be a sum of a holding force h_1 provided by the first glue layer 21 and a holding force h_2

provided by the fifth glue layer 35. The holding force h_1 of the first glue layer 21 is such that the first glue layer 21 can be released from the second backsheet 3B as the disposal securing means 16 continue to be pulled in the direction P after the second strip section 18 has been peeled off from the second backsheet 3B. The holding force h_5 of the fifth glue layer 35 is equal to or higher than the holding force h_1 of the first glue layer 21. In the course of fastening the strip of tape 16 with a high tension around the used diaper 1, the second glue layer 22 and the first glue layer 21 are successively released from the second backsheet 3B in this order. Thereupon a length of the disposal securing means 16 secured around the used diaper 1 is prolonged by a length L extending from the first glue layer 21 to the fifth glue layer 35 of the first strip section 17 and consequently the disposal securing means 16 contracts by this length L. This contraction and the high holding force h_5 of the fifth glue layer 35 contribute to hold the disposal securing means 16 around the used diaper 1.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing still another embodiment of the disposal securing means 16. It should be understood that, according to this embodiment, the disposal securing means 16 comprise only the first strip

section 17 and a stretchable strip section 19 corresponding to the third strip section 19 in the embodiment shown by Fig. 4. While the first strip section 17 is of the same arrangement as that shown by Fig. 4, the stretchable strip section 19 is different from the strip section 19 shown by Fig. 4 in that the stretchable portion 27 is bonded to the folded-back portion 24. The first strip section 17 is bonded to the second backsheet 3B by means of the first glue layer 21 and the fifth glue layer 35 which are spaced apart from each other. The holding force h_5 of the fifth glue layer 35 may be equal to or higher than the holding force h_1 of the first glue layer 21. The first glue layer 21 is released from the second backsheet 3B as the stretchable strip section 19 is stretched with an excessive tension and thereupon causes the strip section 19 to contract. On the other hand, the first strip section 17 remains held by the holding force h_5 of the fifth glue layer 35 on the used diaper 1 just as in the case of the embodiment shown by Fig. 4. With the disposal securing means 16 according to this embodiment, the first strip section 17 is preferably made of a soft material in order to avoid a possibility that the turn-up line 41 of this first strip section 17 might describe a sharp corner tending to irritate the skin of a wearer, since the turn-up

line 41 defined by the folded-back portion 24 of the first strip section 17 may directly touch the skin of the wearer.

The disposal securing means 16 according to the invention can be used not only for the disposable diaper 1 of pull-up or shorts type but also the other disposable body fluids absorbent garments such as diapers of open type, training pants, incontinence pants, urine absorbent pads and bandages. The stretchable portion 27 of the stretchable strip section 19 may be elastically stretchable or inelastically stretchable. In order to assure that the first glue layer 21 as well as the second glue layer 22 can be released from the second backsheet 3B, in addition to adjustment of the adhesive powers provided by these first and second glue layers 21, 22, the second backsheet 3B may be appropriately surface-treated and thereby releasabilities of the first and second glue layers 21, 22 may be adjusted. While the backsheet 3 of the diaper 1 is illustrated as a laminate of the plastic film 3A and the nonwoven fabric 3B, it is also possible to form the backsheet 3 by any one of the plastic film 3A and the nonwoven fabric 3B. While the disposal securing means 16 are illustrated to be stretched upwardly of the diaper 1, the direction in which the disposal securing means 16 are stretched is selective, for example,

downwardly or transversely of the diaper 1.

The third glue layer 23 provided on the third strip section 19 may be replaced by the mechanical fastener commonly known under the trademark of MAGIC TAPE or VELCRO. It should be understood here that, if the mechanical fastener is adopted, the first strip section 17 and the second backsheet 3B should be made of a specific material against which the mechanical fastener can be reliably held.

With the disposable body fluids absorbent garment according to the invention, the stretchable disposal securing means used to secure the garment in a rolled up state for disposal is attached to the backsheet of the garment in a partially separable fashion. As a result, the disposal securing means is partially separated from the backsheet and relaxed as the disposal securing means are pulled with an excessive tension. In this manner, a rupture or other various damages possibly occurring in the backsheet can be reliably avoided.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disposable body fluids absorbent garment having a skin-contactable surface intended to be in contact with the skin of a wearer, through which body fluids discharged by the wearer is absorbed by the garment, and a skin-non-contactable surface provided with disposal securing means being stretchable at least in one direction in order to be secured around the garment which has been rolled up for disposal, wherein:

the disposal securing means comprise a substantially non-stretchable first strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, a substantially non-stretchable second strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, and a third strip section having inner and outer surfaces and proximal and free end portions wherein the free end portion is provided on the inner surface of the third strip section with a securing region and including a stretchable extent defined between the proximal and free end portions;

the first and second strip sections have the respective inner surfaces bonded to the skin-non-contactable surface so that these two strip sections are longitudinally aligned with



each other and have their respective first end portions longitudinally opposed to each other, the first end portion of the first strip section is connected between the first and second end portions of the second strip section, the third strip section has the proximal end portion connected to at least one of the respective first end portions of the first and second strip sections, and the securing region provided on the free end portion is separably held against the outer surface of the first strip section in the proximity of its second end portion; and

the first, second and third strip sections have holding forces, respectively, sufficient to remain held against the skin-non-contactable surface against a stretching stress generated in the third strip section as the third strip section is peeled off from the first strip section in the proximity of the second end portion of the first strip section, stretched and held against the skin-non-contactable surface over the securing region, and the holding forces are selected so that the holding force of the first strip section is equal to or higher than the holding force of the second strip section.

2. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein the securing



region provided on the third strip section is constructed so that the holding force of the third strip section can exceeds the holding forces of both the first and second strip sections.

3. The garment according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the holding force of the second strip section is selected so that second strip section can be peeled off from the skin-non-contactable surface as soon as a tension of the second strip section reaches a predetermined level as the third strip section is stretched.

4. A disposable body fluids absorbent garment having a skin-contactable surface intended to be in contact with the skin of a wearer, through which body fluids discharged by the wearer is absorbed by the garment, and a skin-non-contactable surface provided with disposal securing means being stretchable at least in one direction in order to be secured around the garment which has been rolled up for disposal, wherein:

the disposal securing means comprise a substantially non-stretchable strip section having inner and outer surfaces and first and second end portions, and a stretchable strip



section having inner and outer surfaces and proximal and free end portions wherein the free end portion is provided on the inner surface of the stretchable strip section with a securing region and having a stretchable extent defined between the proximal and free end portions and bonded in the proximity of the first and second end portions spaced apart from each other to the skin-non-contactable surface;

the stretchable strip section has its proximal end portion connected to the first end portion of the first strip section and the securing region provided on the free end portion separably held against the non-stretchable strip section in the proximity of its second end portion; and

the stretchable strip section and the non-stretchable strip section have holding forces, respectively, sufficient to remain held against the skin-non-contactable surface against a stretching stress generated in the stretchable strip section as the stretchable strip section is peeled off from the non-stretchable strip section, stretched and held against the skin-non-contactable surface, and the holding force generated in the proximity of the second end portion of the non-stretchable strip section is equal to or higher than the holding force generated in the proximity of first end portion of the non-stretchable strip section.



5. The garment according to Claim 4, wherein the securing region provided on the stretchable strip section is constructed so that the holding force generated in the stretchable strip section can exceed the holding force generated in the non-stretchable strip section in the proximity of its first end portion.

