

Abstract

Described here is a packaged, highly compressed bale of filter tow in the form of a block without any interfering bulges or constrictions in the top or bottom of the bale. The bale is characterized in that

- (a) the bale has a packing density of at least 300 kg/m^3 ;
- (b) the bale is completely wrapped with a mechanically self-supporting, elastic packaging material, where this material has one or more joints which are air tight with respect to convection; and
- (c) the top and bottom of the bale are so flat that, when the unopened bale is placed on a horizontal surface, a flat plate completely covering the bale can be pressed onto the top of the bale by a force of 100 N acting in the normal direction on the center of the bale with the result that, within the largest rectangle which can be inscribed in a vertical projection of the bale onto the pressed-on plate, at least 90% of the area of the top surface of the bale which is located within the inscribed rectangle is no more than approximately 40 mm away from the flat plate.

An especially suitable process for producing this bale comprises the following steps:

- (a) the filter tow is made available in compressed form;
- (b) the compressed filter tow is wrapped with a package wrapper;
- (c) the package wrapper is sealed air-tight; and
- (d) the load on the wrapped bale is released.

In a bale of this type, the bursting-open of the packaging under the effect of internal pressure is almost completely avoided. It is in the ideal block form, which means that bulges which can interfere with transport and constrictions which interfere with the payout of the filter tow are almost completely eliminated.

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