

ABSORBENT ARTICLE INCLUDING BARRIER LEG CUFF STRUCTURE AND AN ELASTICALLY STRETCHABLE SIDE PANEL**Abstract**

An absorbent article includes 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 has 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. A barrier cuff strip extends in a longitudinal direction from the front waist region to the back waist region along the topsheet. The barrier cuff strip includes 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 is attached to the topsheet at a cuff end bond region having an outer bond edge at one of the front and back ends of the barrier cuff strip and an inner bond edge spaced longitudinally from the outer bond edge. A side panel extends laterally beyond a side of the chassis and is joined to the chassis at one of the front and back waist regions at a panel joint region extending between an outer panel joint edge and an inner panel joint edge. The side panel includes an elastically stretchable material. A longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner panel joint edge is at least about 1/4 of a longitudinal distance from the lateral axis to the inner bond edge of the cuff end bond region.

[Fig. 1]