



- 54 -

ABSTRACT

This invention provides protective products feminine hygiene absorbent such as sanitary napkins that have conforming means in their end regions that, in use, facilitate the products' ability to fit close and conform to the body, resist transverse bunching and prevent leakage of fluid from the edges. The conforming means consists of a stiffened element and a nonstiffened region immediately adjacent the stiffened element that cooperate to bend, fit and conform. The stiffened element, such as an embossed channel or regions that are stiff, densified or reinforced, bends along its axis of bending and resists bending and compression orthogonal to that axis. The nonstiffened relatively unconstrained region puffs outward to fit and conform to the body. The center region of the napkin may optionally contain a stiffening means, such as extra absorbent material, a sphagnum moss containing insert and an embossed channel; the stiffening means of the center region being spaced apart from the stiffened element of the end region. The absorbent product may also optionally have cuffs, or optionally have undergarment wrapping wings, where such cuffs or wings synergistically cooperate with the conforming means of this invention to provide full and reserve coverage of and conformability to the body. This is true for cuffs, and especially for wings, and most especially for wings that are attached inwardly of the longitudinal edges of the absorbent element, such wings providing gathering of the crotch of the undergarment without diminishing the strike zone that is available to capture body fluids.