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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/03556 (22) International Filing Date: 7 March 1997 (07.03.97) (30) Priority Data: 60/012,997 7 March 1996 (07.03.96) US 08/811,311 4 March 1997 (04.03.97) US (71) Applicant: EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; 100 North Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN 37660 (US). (72) Inventors: KRUTAK, James, John, Sr.; 6305 Booth Court, Kingsport, TN 37663 (US). CYR, Michael, John; 204 Coralwood Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663 (US). ESCANO, Nelson, Zamora; 304 Appleberry Circle, Kingsport, TN 37663 (US). CLAUBERG, Horst; 2601 John B. Dennis Highway #210, Kingsport, TN 37660 (US). JACKSON, Barbara, Crawford; 404 Arbutus Avenue, Kingsport, TN 37660 (US). HELTON, Tony, Wayne; 424 Light Street, Kingsport, TN 37663 (US). (74) Agent: HARDING, Karen, A.; P.O. Box 511, Kingsport, TN 37662-5075 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, IL, JP, KR, MX, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report.
(54) Title: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT SECURITY THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING AND MARKING RIBBONS (57) Abstract The present invention relates to thermal transfer ribbons comprising a ribbon backing element and at least one printing media layer comprising at least one near infrared fluorescent compound in a concentration which provides detectable fluorescence without imparting color to a mark made from said printing media layer. Methods for printing marks containing said at least one near infrared fluorescent compound via thermal transfer and methods for reading said marks are also disclosed.		