

Stab resistant material

5 The invention relates to a stab-resistant material made from at least two woven fabrics joined via a polymer film, whereby the woven fabrics consist of yarns with a tensile strength of at least 900 MPa and the polymer film joining the fabrics has a tensile strength of at least 10 MPa; a stab-resistant package; and use of the stab-resistant package for making protective clothing.

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A stab-resistant material of this type is known from WO 97/21334, whereby the polymer film described therein is to have a flexural modulus of 42 to 1000 MPa. From the examples of this publication, clearly 38 to 45 layers of this stab-resistant material are required to provide stab protection that the specification
15 considers to be sufficient. The evaluation of the stab-resistant quality is reportedly performed in accordance with CEN/TC 162/WG 5 N 479. According to this standard, two different knives are to be used, whereby penetration of each knife up to 20 mm is regarded as sufficient stab protection. Which knife was used in WO 97/21334 is not apparent. Due to the clearly required high
20 number of layers of the stab-resistant material, reduced wearing comfort results if protective clothing is manufactured using this stab-resistant material, since the large number of layers makes the clothing both very heavy and stiff.

The problem remains of providing a stab-resistant material of the type cited
25 initially that offers improved wearing comfort compared to that of prior art stab-resistant materials. The problem also exists of improving the effectiveness of stab-resistant materials.

According to the invention, it has now been discovered that, with a stab-
30 resistant material made from at least two woven fabrics joined via a polymer film, whereby the fabrics are made from yarns with a tensile strength of at least 900 MPa and the polymer film joining the fabrics has a tensile strength of at

least 10 MPa, the effectiveness is significantly improved if the polymer film joining the fabrics has a flexural modulus of 1500 to 4500 MPa.

Surprisingly, it has been discovered that, when using such a polymer film,
5 significantly fewer layers are required to provide effective stab protection than in the case of prior art stab-resistant materials.

It is advantageous if the polymer film has an elongation at break of at least 80%, for example 100% or 120%.

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As is also the case in WO 97/21334, the flexural modulus in the present invention is to be determined in accordance with ASTM D-790, the tensile strength of the film in accordance with ASTM D-638, the elongation at break in accordance with ASTM D-638, and the tensile strength of the yarn in
15 accordance with ASTM D-885.

It has proven especially favorable for the stab-resistant material of the invention to comprise two woven fabrics laminated via the polymer film.

20 Preferably, the yarns forming the woven fabrics have a tensile strength of 900 to 8000 MPa. It has proven particularly advantageous for the yarns forming the fabrics to have a tensile strength of 1500 to 6000 MPa, in particular 3000 to 6000 MPa. In this respect, practically all yarns suited for use in ballistic protection, such as yarns made from polyolefin, in particular polyethylene, from
25 polyamide, polyimide, polyester, or poly (p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole). Yarns made from aramides have proven especially favorable.

With the stab-resistant material of the invention, it has proven especially advantageous if the polymer film joining the fabrics has a flexural modulus of
30 1500 to 4500 MPa, in particular from 2000 to 3000 MPa. Suitable polymers are hard PVC, with a flexural modulus between 3500 and 4000 MPa, or polyurethanes with a flexural modulus between 4000 and 4500 MPa.

Polycarbonates have proven particularly favorable. Such a polycarbonate, for example, is marketed under the name LEXAN 103 by GE Plastics. LEXAN 103 has a flexural modulus of 2500 MPa, a tensile strength of 70 MPa, and an elongation at break of 120%.

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For the fabrics used for the stab-resistant material of the invention, it has proven most satisfactory for them to have a plain weave, especially if they have a fabric density, calculated according to Walz, of 25 to 80%, preferably 25 to 60%.

- 10 The fabric density according to Walz is calculated according to the following formula:

$$DG = (d_k + d_s)^2 \cdot f_k \cdot f_s$$

15 where

d_k = substance diameter of the warp yarn in mm

d_s = substance diameter of the weft yarn in mm

f_k = warp threads per cm

f_s = weft threads per cm

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The substance diameter d_k or d_s of the yarns is calculated as follows:

$$d = (\text{titer})^{1/2} / 88.5 \cdot (\text{density})^{1/2}$$

- 25 where d is either d_k or d_s , the titer of the corresponding yarn is in dtex, and the density of the yarn is in g/cm^3 .

The values given above apply in particular to fabrics with plain weave. If other than plain weaves apply, a weave correction factor must be included in the calculation. For this weave correction factor, the following values are used for
30 fabrics with specific weaves:

Weave	Weave correction factor
Hopsack weaves 2:2	0.56
Twill weaves 2:1	0.70
Twill weaves 2:2	0.56
Twill weaves 3:1	0.56
Twill weaves 4:4	0.38
Satin 1:4	0.49

The fabric density DG calculated according to the Walz formula is multiplied by these correction factors.

- 5 The fabric density DG according to Walz is a quantity expressed in %. In the case of highly dense fabrics, values can exceed 100%.

- 10 The stab-resistant material of the invention is optimally suited for manufacturing stab-resistant packages that have multiple layers of the stab-resistant material of the invention. It is especially favorable for a stab-resistant package of the invention to have 6 to 30, preferably 10 to 25 layers of the stab-resistant material of the invention and possibly additional layers made from other materials. For improved handling, it is advantageous if, in the stab-protection package of the invention, several or all layers are positioned in an envelope
15 made from a textile material.

The stab-resistant package in accordance with the invention is optimally suited for manufacturing protective clothing.

- 20 The invention will be explained in more detail on the basis of the following examples:

Woven fabrics were manufactured in plain weave from aramide yarns with a titer of 840 dtex and a tensile strength of 3600 MPa. The fabric density

according to Walz was 46%, the weight of the fabrics 215 g/m². Positioned between two fabrics was a polymer film made from polycarbonate (LEXAN 103), with a specific weight of 135 g/m². The lamination of the two fabrics with the polymer film was performed in a temperature range of 220 to 230°C and a pressure of about 10 bar. Various numbers of these laminates were placed into an envelope made from polyamide woven fabric and the penetration depth of knives 1 and 2 (an English (no.1) and a German knife) determined in accordance with CEN/TC 162/WG 5 N 479. When the stab-resistant package consisted of 8 laminates, there was penetration of only 10 mm with knife 1. When as few as 10 laminates were used in the envelope, no penetration was noted with knife 1, while a penetration of 25 mm was noted with knife 2. After 15 laminates had been arranged one on top of the other in the envelope, there was penetration of only about 5 mm with knife 2, while penetration by knife 1 was no longer noted. With knife 1, it was even observed that the tip of the knife was bent after the test. In the case of 20 laminates in the envelope, penetration was no longer noted with knife 2 either.

In a further test, woven fabrics were produced from aramide yarns with a titer of 840 dtex and a tensile strength of 3600 MPa in plain weave. The fabric density according to Walz was 30% and the fabric weight 170 g/m². A polymer film made from polycarbonate (LEXAN 103) with a specific weight of 135 g/m² was positioned between two fabrics. The lamination of the two fabrics with the polymer film was performed in a temperature range of 220 to 230°C and a pressure of about 10 bar. Various numbers of these laminates were placed into an envelope made from polyamide woven fabric and the penetration depth of knives 1 and 2 (an English (no.1) and a German knife) determined in accordance with CEN/TC 162/WG 5 N 479. When the stab-resistant package consisted of 8 laminates, there was a penetration of only 10 mm with knife 1 (average value). When as few as 10 laminates were used in the envelope, penetration was no longer noted for knife 1, while the requirements of the standard had not been met for knife 2. After 15 laminates had been arranged one on top of the other in the envelope, there was a penetration of only about

10 mm with knife 2, while again penetration was no longer noticeable with knife 1.

Claims:

1. Stab-resistant material made from at least two woven fabrics joined together via a polymer film, whereby the fabrics comprise yarns with a tensile strength of at least 900 MPa and the polymer film joining the fabrics has a tensile strength of at least 10 MPa, characterized in that the polymer film joining the fabrics has a flexural modulus of 1500 to 4500 MPa.
2. Stab-resistant material according to Claim 1, characterized in that it comprise two fabrics laminated together via the polymer film.
3. Stab-resistant material according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the yarns forming the fabrics have a tensile strength of 900 to 8000 MPa.
4. Stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the polymer film joining the fabrics has a flexural modulus of 2000 to 3000 MPa.
5. Stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the fabrics have a plain weave.
6. Stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the fabrics have a fabric density, calculated according to Walz, of 25 to 80%.
7. Stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the polymer film joining the fabrics consists of a polycarbonate.
8. Stab-resistant package containing a plurality of layers of the stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7.



9. Stab-resistant package according to Claim 8, characterized in that it contains 6 to 30 layers of the stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7 and possibly additional layers.
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10. Stab-resistant package according to Claim 9, characterized in that it contains 10 to 25 layers of the stab-resistant material according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7.
- 10 11. Stab-resistant package according to one or more of Claims 8 to 10, characterized in that a plurality of layers or all layers are arranged in an envelope made from a textile material.
- 15 12. Use of the stab-resistant package according to one or more of Claims 8 to 11 for manufacturing stab-resistant clothing.

