

nonwovens report international

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talline silver, in a highly absorbent, easy to use format.

"Introducing the product into these additional markets will provide our customers with an exciting new option for managing their patients' wounds, which are at risk of the complications associated with infection," said Emma-Jayne Craig, international brand manager with Smith & Nephew.

Antimicrobial barrier dressings are used in the management of infection, a major cause of delays to the wound healing process. An outbreak of wound infection can lead to increased nursing time, extended hospital stays, increasing healthcare costs, as well as affecting patient quality of life.

"Acticoat Moisture Control dressings combine the anti microbial benefits of nanocrystalline silver with a moisture-balancing absorbent foam," says Dr Keith Bowering of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Canada. "In our experience in treating diabetic foot ulcers, this dressing has proven to be effective in promoting efficient wound healing in patients at risk for wound infections."

FR performance

Precision Custom Coatings has developed a nonwoven flame retardant product designed to meet the most stringent standards for mattress flammability.

Precision Flame Protection (PFP) has been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the pre-eminent

independent and trusted, not-for-profit source for product safety and compliance testing, and was found to have met the specifications established in Technical Bulletin (TB) 603.

Technical Bulletin 603 is a fire-safety standard of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHFTI), the most stringent standard for mattress flammability in the USA. It is also already compliant with federal regulations set in advance of The Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) new national open flame standard for mattress flammability and fire-resistant upholstered furniture, set to take effect in 2007. These standards require that all new mattresses provide protection against an open flame that could otherwise cause the product to ignite and burn intensely.

PFP fabric can be wrapped around the foam core of the mattress and can rest behind the outer layer of fabric, effectively cutting off the fire from the main fuel source.

The polyurethane foam found in conventional mattresses is highly flammable. When exposed to an open flame, it quickly catches fire, producing intense flames accompanied by high levels of heat and smoke, causing the fire to spread to the surrounding room and its contents within minutes. The initial thick smoke before igniting can disable victims and tragically prevent their escape.

According to the CPSC, from 1995 through 1999,

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allows for charring, but significantly resists igniting, and results in much less heat and smoke release for a period of over 30 minutes, providing ample time for fire victims to become alert to the fire and escape to safety.

"Our goal was to develop a product that meets current and anticipated mattress legislation, provides significant flame retardance, and offers the quality that we are known for," said Scott Tesser, president of Precision Custom Coatings. "We're proud to have developed a flame retardant product that satisfies UL testing and offers consumers peace of mind along with a safer night's sleep. Our capability to produce this

product, and others, from fibre to finish, all under one roof, provides comfort to our customers.

"It is also comforting to know that they are both receiving a reliable product from a single, responsible source, and are at the same time realising a cost saving resulting from our production efficiencies."

With corporate headquarters and production facilities in Totowa, New Jersey, offices in Asia, and over 35 distribution centers around the globe, Precision Custom Coatings is a key supplier of nonwoven and coated fabrics to the automotive, healthcare, home furnishings, geotextiles, footwear, luggage, food

packaging, medical, protective clothing, and apparel industries.

The company has invested significantly in capital equipment to expand its capacity to manufacture fabrics for industrial applications.

Total management

Techmercolor is a patent-pending total colour and quality management system for polypropylene, polyester and nylon polymers being introduced by Techmer PM.

Its purpose is to significantly reduce colour development cost and prototype-to-product realisation timeframes so that concept-to-market

introductions can be achieved in a fraction of the time needed for current development cycles.

For end-use markets where the final product assembly requires a combination of polypropylene, polyester and nylon in a variety of plastic and/or fibre applications, the Techmercolor system enables non-metameric matches across multiple applications and polymers.

It allows for production parts to be monitored electronically anywhere throughout the world for QC colour compliance based on the evaluation of spectral curves. Electronic evaluation for lot or merge commercial match approvals and assembly sequences can all be managed.

Ciba's Magic Carpet

Ciba Specialty Chemicals has launched the first ever total solution for carpet printing on ChromoJet equipment. Endorsed by ChromoJet manufacturer J. Zimmer of Austria, the MagiCarpet Concept comprises dyes and chemicals for all carpet fibres and end uses, including a specially designed thickener, Ciba Alcoprint CT DP.

"The new concept improves quality and productivity in carpet printing and has substantial environmental benefits," says Peter Otto, global head of textile effects marketing at Ciba Specialty Chemicals. "It allows carpet printers to make the most of all the advantages of jet printing, including high flexibility in terms of fibre material, production runs, design and end product."

A key component of the concept, Alcoprint CT DP ChromoJet thickener is said to possess outstanding storage stability as well as excellent rheological properties, which ensure high colour yield and right first-time results. It allows very vibrant shades and maximum

fixation, including at low pH. The MagiCarpet Concept is suitable for all carpet fibres and end products, including carpet tiles, mats, wall to wall carpeting and rugs. Ciba offers a wide range of dyes, processing chemicals and effect finishes for different carpet fibres and end uses.



mattresses and bedding were the first items to ignite in approximately 19,400 residential fires each year, resulting in an estimated 440

deaths, 2,230 injuries, and nearly \$274 million in property loss annually.

Tests have shown that with the use of PFP, the material