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TEXTILES - DISPOSABLE ADULT DIAPERS – SPECIFICATION

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Textiles — Disposable adult diapers — Specification



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Introduction

An adult diaper is a diaper made to be worn by a person with a body larger than that of an infant or toddler. Diapers can be necessary for adults with various conditions, such as incontinence, mobility impairment, severe diarrhoea or dementia. Adult diapers are made in various forms, including those resembling traditional child diapers, underpants, and pads resembling sanitary napkins (known as incontinence pads). Superabsorbent polymer is primarily used to absorb bodily wastes and liquids.

Other situations in which diapers are worn because access to a toilet is unavailable or not allowed for longer than even a normal urinary bladder can hold out include;

- (i) Astronauts wear trunklike diapers called "Maximum Absorbency Garments", or MAGs, during liftoff and landing.
- (ii) Guards who must stay on duty and are not permitted to leave their posts; this is sometimes called the "watchman's urinal".
- (iii) People diving in diving suits (in former times often standard diving dresses) may wear diapers because they are underwater continuously for several hours.
- (iv) Similarly, pilots may wear them on long flights.
- (v) Workers in production lines who are not allowed to leave stations during long working hours.

Adult incontinence occurs in both men and women, and can range from light leakage of urine to a complete loss of control of urine and faeces¹. Key consumer needs in this category include the need for protection and absorption, dryness, odour control, no leakage, etc. Single-use disposable incontinence products absorb and lock away urine and faeces so that leakage does not occur and the user's skin is kept dry and healthy. Other requirements include comfort and discretion, a sense of being secure and in control, and a need to forget about bladder weakness. The key product requirement is the ability quickly to acquire and store urine, which is more fluid, has a lower viscosity, and is expelled under more pressure than menstrual fluid.

Adults may lose the ability to control urine (bladder incontinence) or faeces (faecal incontinence, also called bowel incontinence or anal incontinence) as a result of aging, injury, disease, or other factors that damage the nervous or muscular control needed to maintain continence. Common factors contributing to incontinence are pregnancy and childbirth, which can affect the strength of pelvic floor structures, and prostate surgery, which can damage nerves essential to the control of urination. Adults who are incontinent must struggle with both the physical aspects of dealing with the excreta and the social and emotional aspects relating to loss of dignity and fear that their condition may be betrayed to those around them by odour, leakage, or visibility of the incontinence product. In patients who are otherwise healthy and active, a discreet product allows the continuance of normal activities without fear of embarrassment. In patients with limited mobility or who are bedridden, the use of an absorbent product that protects the skin from excreta is particularly important, as these patients are at high risk of skin breakdown and bedsores.

Adult incontinence products take a number of forms, and the best product for a particular user will depend upon a number of factors, including sex, type and degree of incontinence, and lifestyle. All wearable disposable products are now made with fluff and superabsorbent polymers (SAPs), so that even small, thin products can contain large volumes of liquid and lock this inside so that skin remains dry.

The foregoing informed the need for this African Standard which should serve to address adult incontinence on the basis of performance requirements which fit the declared use.

¹ Qin, Yimin (2016), *Medical Textile Materials*. Cambridge, UK; Waltham, MA, USA: Elsevier/WP, Woodhead Publishing. (6.9.3)

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Textiles — Disposable adult diapers — Specification

1 Scope

This African Standard specifies the requirements for disposable adult diapers.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ARS 653, *Textiles — Disposable sanitary towels — Specification*

ISO 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 2859-1, *Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes -- Part 1: Sampling schemes indexed by acceptance quality limit (AQL) for lot-by-lot inspection*

ISO 3071, *Textiles — Determination of pH of aqueous extract*

ISO 3801, *Textiles — Woven fabrics — Determination of mass per unit length and mass per unit area*

ISO 4833-2, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms – Colony-count technique at 30 °C* *Microbiology of the food chain -- Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms -- Part 2: Colony count at 30 degrees C by the surface plating technique*

ISO 16181, *Footwear — Critical substances potentially present in footwear and footwear components — Determination of phthalates in footwear materials*

ISO 20158, *Textiles — Determination of water absorbency of textile fabrics*

ISO 22198, *Textiles — Fabrics — Determination of width and length*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply.

3.1 diaper

a piece of cloth or other absorbent material folded and worn as underpants by an adult and has ability to absorb urine, keep stool and prevent leakage.

3.2 disposable adult diaper

diapers used by adults that are discarded after use.

3.3 incontinence

inability to control faecal and urinary discharge

4 Classification

Disposable adult diapers shall be classified according to the level of Incontinence, as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1 – Urinary incontinence levels

sn	Incontinence	Fluid lost, ml.	% of Full bladder Loss
1	Light	Less than 118	20
2	Moderate or medium	119 - 295	55
3	Heavy	295 - 472	90
4	Overnight	Over 472	Over 90

NOTE 1. **Light** is dribbling and occasional urine release. 2. **Moderate** is large releases of urine but not a full bladder. 3. **Heavy** is the release of a full bladder in the daytime. 4. **Overnight** is the release of urine throughout the night.

5 Requirements

5.1 General

Diapers shall be clean, smooth on touch and comfortable to use.

5.2 Materials

The materials used for making the diapers shall be free from harmful substances and comfortable to the user.

5.2.1 Untreated fluffed pulp (paper material and cotton)

5.2.1.1 Shall be clean, free from harmful foreign materials, lumps, splits, holes and protruding points when visually examined.

5.2.2 SAP (Super Absorbent Polymer)

It shall be produced from acrylic polymers and does not contain phthalates when tested in accordance with ISO 16181

5.2.3 Non-woven fabric

Shall be produced from **polypropylene (PP)**, without the use of organic solvents and not based on chlorine, and does not contain phthalates.

5.2.4 Tape Tabs

The tape tabs shall be produced from polyethylene (PE) and/or any other suitable material.

5.2.5 Back sheet

Shall be produced from polyethylene (PE) and/or any other suitable material.

5.2.6 Elastic material

Shall be produced from elastomeric material.

5.2.7 Glue

Shall be based on resin without phthalates.

6 Product specification

Other physical specifications of adult diapers shall comply with the requirements given in Table 2.

Table 2 — Specification of disposable adult diapers

Description	Small	Medium	Large	Extra large	Test
Size: Total dimension of the diaper length x width in mm.	670x485 ± 15	650x770 ± 15	960x800 ± 15	1030x800 ± 15	ISO 22198
Size: Dimension of the absorbent core length x width in mm.	510x270 ± 15	610x200 ± 15	760x230 ± 15	820x300 ± 15	ISO 22198
Size: Waist in inches	66.4-101.6 26-40	71.12-121.92 28-48	106.68-147.32 42-58	137.16-157.48 54-62	ISO 22198
Mass in g/m ²	73.00 ± 3	86.00 ± 3	97.00 ± 3	120 ± 3	ISO 3801
Absorptive capacity max, ml.	780	928	980	1200	ISO 20158
Absorbency rate, sec.	10	10	10	10	ISO 20158
pH	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	ISO 3071

7 Microbiological status

The total bacterial count when determined in accordance with the procedure in ARS 653 shall not exceed 1000 per diaper (see ISO 4833-2).

8 Packaging and marking

8.1 Packaging

The diapers shall be packed in a suitable package that shall protect them from any form of contamination and damage as recommended in table 2.

8.2 Marking

The disposable adult diaper packs shall be marked with legible and indelible pre-printed marking bearing the following information:

- Name of the product (Disposable adult diapers);
- Manufacturer's name, address and/or trade mark;
- Number of adult diapers in a pack;
- Type of adult diaper and its classification;
- Instruction for storage and disposal;
- Country of origin;
- Date of manufacture and expiry; or best before;
- Batch number.

9 Sampling

Sampling shall be done in accordance with ISO 2859-1.

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