

ASTM develops new standards for geotextiles

When geotextiles are used to reinforce the base layers of flexible pavement, the interaction between the fabric and aggregates is important, as is the tensile property of the geotextile. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed two new standards pertaining to these important features, namely ASTM D7499, Test Method for Measuring Geosynthetic-Soil Resilient Interface Shear Stiffness; and ASTM D7556, Test Methods for Determining Small-Strain Tensile Properties of Geogrids and Geotextiles by In-Air Cycling Tension Tests.

U.S. announces final duties on imports of narrow woven ribbons

The Department of Commerce (DoC) announced its affirmative final determinations in the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations on imports of narrow woven ribbons with woven selvage (woven ribbons) from the China (AD and CVD) and Taiwan (AD). Commerce determined that producers/exporters from China and Taiwan have sold woven ribbons in the U.S. at margins ranging from zero to 247.65%, and zero to 4.37%, respectively.

Commerce also determined that Chinese producers/exporters have received net countervailable subsidies ranging from 1.56 to 117.95%. In the AD investigations, Chinese mandatory respondent, Yama Ribbons and Bows Co., Ltd. (Yama Ribbons), received a final dumping rate of 0%. The other mandatory respondent, Ningbo Jintian Import & Export Co., Ltd., did not participate in this investigation and, as a result, received a final dumping rate of 247.65%.

Corporate Update

Ahlstrom consolidates

wipes fabrics capacity in Italy

Ahlstrom is to consolidate its non-woven wipes fabrics manufacturing platform in Italy, with the aim of increasing capacity, efficiency and breadth of product range, the company said in a recent statement. Ahlstrom said the production of wipes will be located in two out of three existing manufacturing sites, Mozzate and Cressa, while the Carbonate plant will be closed. All the plants are located in the Milan region and belong to the group's Home & Personal Nonwovens business area.

Fibertect successfully field tested in oil spill clean-up

According to Texas Tech University, preliminary tests on absorbent Fibertect nonwoven, prove it is successful at picking up the oily paste washing ashore at beaches and marshes across the Gulf State region. The test took place on the soiled beaches of Grand Isle, Louisiana. Seshadri Ramkumar, an associate professor of nonwoven technologies, said the Texas Tech-created nonwoven cotton absorbent wipe with activated carbon core makes it a perfect remediation tool for use by cleaning crews trying to remove the toxic material.

Ramkumar said his latest research shows that raw cotton-carbon Fibertect can absorb oil up to 15 times its weight. Amit Kapoor, President of First Line Technology, which distributes Fibertect commercially said the product has been tested in the lab with raw crude and motor oil but the company wanted to field-test the product. The product is manufactured by Hobbs Bonded Fibers, Waco, USA.

NSC clinches Fibertex deals

During the recent IDEA nonwoven show in Miami, Fibertex finalised the purchase of another ProDyn line from NSC nonwoven, together with needleloom equipment for its plant in



Joergen Bech Madsen, CEO, Fibertex (C), with NSC CEO Johannes Haep (R), sales & marketing Director Jean-Philippe Dumon.

the Czech Republic. This is the fifth ProDyn line NSC has supplied to the Fibertex group and includes the IsoProDyn system for ideal tensile strength uniformity across the fabric width. Earlier this year, Fibertex purchased another new needling line from NSC for its new South African operation. The wide-width production line includes the card, crosslapper, drafter, needlelooms and ProDyn weight control system.

Fibertex and NSC nonwoven Fibertex is establishing Fibertex South Africa together with Safyr (South African Fibre Yarn Rugs), a local South African partner. The view of the company is to manufacture and market needlepunched products. The manufacturing plant is located near Durban and has a competitive production system geared towards producing primarily geotextiles for road works, but also products for the growing South African automotive industry. It will also target applications in many industrial applications such as furniture, bedding and filtration.

Market News

Toray to supply carbon fiber prepreg to Airbus

Toray Industries, Inc. has announced that it has signed a long-term basic supply agreement with the aerospace and defence company EADS to supply carbon fiber prepreg for aircraft application primarily for