

## **Amicor - The First Anti Microbial Fiber to be Awarded the REACH SVHC Certification**

Thai Acrylic Fibre Co. Ltd., Thailand

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

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Amicor brands of anti-bacterial and anti-fungal fibers - Amicor Pure, Amipure, Amicor Breathe and Amicor Protect - manufactured and marketed by Thai Acrylic Fibre Co. Ltd., are now the first brands of fibers to be certified by REACH. Amicor fibers comply with all the requirements of the current REACH SVHC limits. The REACH certificate has been issued to Thai Acrylic Fibre Co., Ltd by Shirley Technologies Ltd., United Kingdom (a part of BTTG Group of Companies) on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009. Shirley Technologies Ltd. is satisfied with the assessment and test results which were carried out in accordance with the Shirley REACH SVHC Protocol (2009).

REACH is a European Community regulation on chemicals and their safe use which directly applies in all member states of the European Union. It deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals. Over the years, there has been a growing concern about Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) having potentially very serious and often irreversible effects on humans and the environment. SVHC list includes performance chemicals such as plasticizers, flame retardants, biocides, and various functional additives added intentionally or as contaminants due to the use of re-cyclates. The REACH certification implies that REACH compliant products do not contain SVHC at levels greater than 1 % (w/w). As per the latest law of European Chemical Agency (ECHA), manufacturers and importers within the European Union (EU) now need to indicate the presence of these hazardous substances in their products and ensure that those are REACH compliant. Being the first REACH compliant product within its category, Amicor is by far in an advantageous position along with its partners and suppliers, ensuring a safer and hazard free product being delivered to consumers.

Amicor is a dual-activity fiber having water insoluble anti-bacterial and anti-fungal additives. It uses the "Late Injection Technology" wherein the functional additives are incorporated into the fiber structure thus making these durable and long-lasting. Tests have shown that Amicor fibers retain the antimicrobial performance even after 200 hospital washing cycles which is roughly equivalent to the expected life of most fabrics.

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Amicor has proven anti-allergy properties and has been awarded a number of endorsements from leading European organizations. Amicor is the first fiber to be granted the Seal of Approval by the British Allergy Foundation in 2002. It has also been endorsed by Red Cross Asthma Hospital, Barcelona. Amicor Pure complies with all regulations governing antimicrobials for use in textiles. It is on the Oeko-Tex "White List" Standard 100 of approved antimicrobials for use in ecologically safe textiles.

### **About Thai Acrylic Fibre**

Thai Acrylic Fibre Co, a unit of Aditya Birla Group, is a leading acrylic fiber manufacturer with a plant in Thailand capable of manufacturing 100,000 MT / year. Thai Acrylic Fibre was set up in 1987 to produce acrylic fiber in collaboration with Japan Exlan Co, Ltd., Japan. Their latest plant commissioned in January 2006 is Alexandria Fibre Co. in Egypt. It produces 18,000 MT of gel-dyed acrylic fiber and tow and its capacity will be 60,000 MT by the end of 2010. Since its inception, Thai Acrylic has adopted a system-focused approach and has successfully implemented various Total Quality Management systems. It has successfully implemented international standards and has achieved ISO 9001-2000 quality management systems, ISO 14001 environment management systems, ISO 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Systems), SA 8000 (Social Accountability Standards) and International Quality Rating Systems (IQRS) from DNV, Norway. Thai Acrylic Fibre has won several international and national awards for its quality management system. Some of the coveted recognitions won by Thai Acrylic are the Japan Quality Medal, Deming Award, International Asia Pacific Quality Award, Thailand Quality Award, and the Golden Peacock International Environment Management Award. We have ambitious plans to become one of the top three acrylic fiber producers in the world by expanding production capacity and product range.

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