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AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

I/We ECOLAB INC.

of ECOLAB CENTER
ST. PAUL
MINNESOTA 55102
U.S.A.

being the applicant(s) and nominated person(s) in respect of an application for a patent for an invention entitled BLENDED CARBOXYLIC ACID SANITIZER (Application No. 20011/92), state the following:

1. The nominated person(s) has/have, for the following reasons, gained entitlement from the actual inventor(s):

THE NOMINATED PERSON IS THE ASSIGNEE OF THE ACTUAL INVENTORS.

2. The nominated person(s) has/have, for the following reasons, gained entitlement from the applicant(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT:

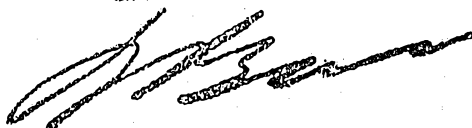
THE APPLICANT AND NOMINATED PERSON IS THE ASSIGNEE OF THE BASIC APPLICANTS.

3. The basic application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT is/are the first application(s) made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

DATED: 6 October 1993

ECOLAB INC.

GRIFFITH HACK & CO.



Patent Attorney for and
on behalf of the applicant



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- (56) Prior Art Documents
WO 91/05842
- (57) Claim

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising a major portion of carrier and an antimicrobial agent, said agent consisting essentially of:

(a) an effective sanitizing amount of a C₅₋₁₄ aliphatic poly-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid, acid derivative or mixture thereof

(b) an effective sanitizing amount of an aromatic carboxylic acid, acid derivative, or mixture thereof comprising the formula



wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure and the pH of the composition is between 2 and 6.5.

15. An antimicrobial composition comprising a major portion of carrier and an antimicrobial agent, said antimicrobial agent comprising:

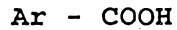
(a) from 0.05 to 3 wt-% of an di-unsaturated

(11) AU-B-20011/92
(10) 665548

-2-

monocarboxylic acid or salt thereof having 5 to 8 carbon atoms;

(b) from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% of an aromatic carboxylic acid of the formula



wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure.

23. An antimicrobial composition comprising:

(a) an antimicrobial agent consisting essentially of from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% sorbic acid and from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% benzoic acid;

(b) from 0 wt-% to 2 wt-% of a nonionic surfactant having the formula

$\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O})_y(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z\text{H}$ wherein x and z range from 120 to 135 and y ranges from 50 to 60;

(c) from 0.5 wt-% to 5 wt-% of an acidulant as in lactic acid; and

(d) a major portion of carrier comprising from 30 wt-% to 90 wt-% water, up to 10 wt-% glycerine, up to 20 wt-% propylene glycol, and from 5 wt-% to 40 wt-% ethanol.

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/00794 (22) International Filing Date: 30 January 1992 (30.01.92) (30) Priority data: 710,095 4 June 1991 (04.06.91) US (71) Applicant: ECOLAB INC. [US/US]; Ecolab Center, Saint Paul, MN 55102 (US). (72) Inventors: RICHTER, Francis, L. ; 241 Aurora Lane, Circle Pines, MN 55014 (US). PEDERSEN, Daniel, E. ; 8798 Indian Boulevard South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 (US). MUNSON, Mary, Jean ; 705 South Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116 (US). FREDELL, Dale, L. ; 28270 Nathan Lane, R.R. 1, Box 498, Lindstrom, MN 55045 (US).</p>		<p>(74) Agents: BYRNE, Linda, M. et al.; Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell, Welter & Schmidt, 1000 Norwest Center, 55 East Fifth Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101 (US). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), MC (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: BLENDED CARBOXYLIC ACID SANITIZER</p>		
<p>(57) Abstract The invention generally comprises a composition capable of sanitizing and disinfecting antimicrobial efficacy while also being ingestible as a food additive residue by humans and mammals. Specifically, the microbicidal composition of the invention generally comprises a carrier and an antimicrobial agent, wherein the antimicrobial agent generally comprises a C₅ to C₁₄ unsaturated monocarboxylic acid such as sorbic acid, in combination with an aromatic carboxylic acid such as benzoic acid. The antimicrobial composition of the invention is useful for both hard and soft surface sanitizing in environments such as farms, milk and food processing, fluid milk operations, institutional food preparation and serving areas, health care and child care facilities.</p>		

665548

BLENDED CARBOXYLIC ACID SANITIZER

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Field of the Invention

The invention relates to microbicidal compositions for sanitizing food contact surfaces and for disinfecting critical day-care and health-care environments. More specifically, the present invention relates to food additive microbicidal compositions which include carboxylic acid antimicrobial agents and which are preferably safe for incidental human contact, as well as food contact surfaces without requiring a post sanitizing rinse. The microbicidal compositions of the invention are suitable for food process plants, food preparation kitchens, food serving establishments, child-care and nursing-care and hospital-care applications, as well as for domestic households where concern exists for human contact or ingestion and safety of environmental residues.

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20**Background of the Invention**

The list of approved antimicrobial agents has decreased due to their human toxicity and their detrimental effect on water supplies and the environment. Improving analytical capabilities to detect parts-per-billion levels in food, water and in the environment, has raised important safety concerns about the application and misapplication of these chemicals. These issues have resulted in the banning of some antimicrobials, for example hexachlorophene; the retesting of others for animal toxicity, such as, the quaternary ammonium compounds; and, increasing scrutiny of species such as chlorine or hypochlorites which may form toxic halocarbons in effluent waters.

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There has been a long felt need for antimicrobial agents which have a high degree of antimicrobial efficacy,

- 2 -

and which are preferably safely ingestible by humans while posing no environmental incompatibility. Those antimicrobial agents which are lethal to microorganisms, however, are also toxic in varying degrees to humans and animals in that both higher and lower forms of life share at least some metabolic pathways. Competitive inhibition, non-competitive inhibition, protein coagulation, oxidative and reductive action, blockage of enzyme systems are thought to be some of the mechanisms involved in the destruction of microorganisms.

Differentiation of antimicrobial "-cidal" or "-static" activity, the definitions which describe the degree of efficacy, and the official laboratory protocols for measuring this efficacy are important considerations for understanding the relevance of antimicrobial agents and compositions. Antimicrobial compositions may effect two kinds of microbial cell damage. The first is a truly lethal, irreversible action resulting in complete microbial cell destruction or incapacitation. The second type of cell damage is reversible, such that if the organism is rendered free of the agent, it can again multiply. The former is termed microbicidal and the latter, bacteriostatic. A sanitizer and a disinfectant are, by definition, agents which provide microbicidal activity. In contrast, a preservative is generally described as inhibitory or bacteriostatic.

A sanitizer is an agent that reduces the number of bacterial contaminants to safe levels as judged by public health requirements. Practically, a sanitizer must result in 99.999% reduction (5 log order reduction) for given organisms as defined by Germicidal and Detergent Sanitizing Action of Disinfectants, Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, paragraph 960.09 and applicable sections, 15th Edition, 1990 (EPA Guideline 91-2). In common practice, substances that are

- 3 -

applied to food contact surfaces for antimicrobial purposes must meet this requirement.

A disinfectant is an agent that kills all vegetative cells including most recognized pathogenic microorganisms.

5 As such, it must pass a more stringent antimicrobial test; the A.O.A.C. Use Dilution Methods, Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, paragraph 955.14 and applicable sections, 15th Edition, 1990 (EPA Guideline 91-2).

10 In contrast, a preservative is described as any agent that extends the storage life of food and non-food products by retarding or preventing deterioration of flavor, odor, color, texture, appearance, nutritive value, or safety. The criteria used for evaluating such materials is
15 designated Minimum Inhibitory Concentration. Another procedure is entitled Zone of Inhibition. Preservatives, by definition, are therefore inhibitory substances added to food to prolong or enhance shelf-life. The principal differences between a preservative and a sanitizer are two-
20 fold: 1) mode of action - a preservative prevents growth rather than killing microorganisms like a sanitizer; and, 2) exposure time - a preservative has days to months. In contrast, a sanitizer must provide 99.999% kill (5 log order) within 30 seconds at nominal 20°C.

25 Ideally, a sanitizing agent or compound will possess several important properties in addition to its antimicrobial efficacy. The sanitizer should be no-rinse after application, and exhibit residual antimicrobial activity. Residual activity means a film of sanitizing
30 material which will continue to have antimicrobial effect if the treated surface is contaminated by microorganisms during a storage or lag period. The sanitizer should preferably be composed of direct food additive materials which will not affect food if contact occurs, nor affect
35 humans should incidental ingestion result. The sanitizer

should be odor free to prevent transfer of undesirable odors onto foodstuffs.

Previously, certain compositions have been recognized as effective in maintaining the condition of food products.

5 For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,404,040 to Wang discloses the sanitizing properties of short chain fatty acids formulated with an ionic hydrotrope-solubilizer and compatible acids. However, Wang does not focus on the antimicrobial efficacy of unsaturated alkyl/aromatic
10 carboxylic acid combinations nor the efficacy of these compounds when used with certain adjuvants.

U.S. Patent No. 4,647,458 to Ueno et al, discloses bactericidal compositions comprising a large portion of ethyl alcohol, an organic acid, and an inorganic acid.

15 However Ueno's disclosure is also not specific to sorbic/benzoic acid systems.

U.S. Patent No. 3,915,633 to Ramachandran, discloses a prewash composition for treating fabrics which includes an organic acid such as citric acid and either a nonionic or
20 an anionic surfactant.

U.S. Patent No. 3,867,300 to Karabinos, discloses bactericidal compositions presumably for controlling the spread of nosocomial infections in hospitals consisting of an aliphatic monocarboxylic acids, and nonionic

25 surfactants. U.K. Patent Application GB 2,103,089A to Kimberly Clark, discloses the use of carboxylic acids as virucides. U.S. Patent No. 4,715,930 to Lopes et al, discloses an antimicrobial concentrate composition containing a dicarboxylic acid, a solubilizer, an acid and
30 a diluent. U.S. Patent No. 3,650,965 to Cantor et al, discloses clean-in-place detergent solutions for treating milk and food processing equipment based on two different nonionic surfactants.

- 5 -

U.S. Patent No. 4,002,775 to Kabara discloses the use of mono-esters of twelve carbon aliphatic fatty acid and polyols. European Patent Application No. 87303488 to Kabara discloses antimicrobial preservative compositions of glycerol mono esters.

However similar to Wang and Ueno et al, the disclosure in these publications is not specific to sorbic-benzoic acid compositions and further does not disclose the antimicrobial activity of these acids in conjunction with their use with certain adjuvants.

Currently, products used for sanitizing operations include strong oxidizing agents such as peracetic acid, iodophors, sodium hypochlorite, and related n-chloro compounds such as chloro isocyanurates, quaternary ammonium compounds, acid compositions containing dodecyl benzene sulfonic acid or carboxylic acid and the like. While these are no rinse sanitizers, they are not ideal for one reason or another.

Peracetic acid, iodophors and chlorine based sanitizers are either decomposed or lost by evaporation when a film of sanitizer is left on food contact surface and allowed to dry. Thus no residual activity remains on the intended surface. Residual activity is necessary to provide continued antimicrobial effect if the surface is contaminated by microorganisms during storage.

Quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) have excellent residual property as they are stable and increase in concentration as the solvent (water) evaporates. Unfortunately, for other uses, this residue may be carried over into the food product. In fact, even a trace of the QAC in milk inhibits the starter culture which produces lactic acid and flavor resulting in the curdling of milk protein.

Acid based sanitizers often contain surfactant couplers which are not food additive. Moreover, certain carboxylic

- 6 -

acid based sanitizers have undesirable organoleptic properties such as a "goat-like" rancid odor. Moreover, longer chain fatty acids have limited solubilities in water and require thorough rinsing with potable water before
5 contact of the sanitized surface with food stuff to avoid imparting off-flavor to the food.

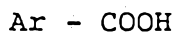
While all these compositions are excellent sanitizers, many of their ingredients are not food additive. Consequently, these current, commercially successful
10 products have not been designed for user safety, potential misapplication or environmental compatibility. Thus a sanitizing agent which specifically addresses these issues would possess utility and uniqueness not found in heretofore described sanitizers.

15

Summary of the Invention

The invention is based on the surprising discovery of a antimicrobial composition composed of food additive ingredients capable of providing sanitizing and, in fact,
20 disinfecting antimicrobial efficacy. The composition comprises a carrier and an antimicrobial agent, with the agent comprising a C₅₋₁₄ ^{poly}~~di~~-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid or salts thereof and an aromatic carboxylic acid or salts thereof comprising the formula

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wherein Ar comprises an aromatic structure such as a benzene structure and the pH of the antimicrobial composition is between 2 and 6.5.

The invention also includes a food additive antimicrobial concentrate comprising a carrier and a
30 similar antimicrobial agent as well as a method of sanitizing soft or hard surfaces preferably using a food additive antimicrobial composition of the invention. Optionally, the present invention may also contain a variety of formulary or application adjuvants.

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- 7 -

The composition of the invention eliminates the potential for recontamination of sanitized surfaces by eliminating the need for a potable water rinse which may be safe to drink but may contain food spoilage bacteria. This is particularly important when there is a delay between sanitizing operation and use of the equipment. In cases where equipment remains wet between uses, contaminating organisms may grow freely.

Airborne contamination may also be prevented by the invention by retention on surfaces. Especially in the presence of moisture, residue resulting from the composition of the invention will continue its antimicrobial action. When residual amounts of the invention are retained on the surface of application, continued sanitizing action will occur in the face of exposure to contamination.

The invention is also applicable to closed systems such as pipelines and holding tanks which are difficult to completely drain. When used, the invention will continue to effectively destroy any microorganisms which might be present in pipelines or holding tanks without creating the risk of harmful food contamination or environmental contamination.

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Brief Description of the Figure

The Figure comprises a graphical representation of the antimicrobial efficacy of the invention in comparison to other compositions as reported in Working Example I.

30

Detailed Description of the Invention

The invention comprises a composition capable of imparting sanitizing and, in fact, disinfecting antimicrobial efficacy. In its most preferred form, the invention comprises an antimicrobial agent and a carrier which are approved as food additives. The composition may

- 8 -

also comprise an acidulant along with any variety of other formulatory or application adjuvants.

This invention also comprises concentrate and use solution formulations which may take the form of liquid solutions, towelettes, gels, impregnated sponges, lotions, personal care cleansers, pump sprays, aerosol sprays, foams and solids, in addition to methods of sanitizing and disinfection utilizing the composition of the invention.

I. Antimicrobial Agent

The composition of the invention generally comprises a two part antimicrobial agent. This antimicrobial agent comprises both aromatic and aliphatic polyunsaturated carboxylic acids.

The invention is based on a discovery that certain carboxylic acids, when combined, surprisingly provide extraordinary sanitizing, if not disinfecting, antimicrobial efficacy. This discovery, is enhanced by the fact that both acids preferably meet food grade purity requirements, in accordance with the Food Chemicals Codex, published by Food Chemical News, and are recognized Food Additives by the United States Food and Drug Administration. The antimicrobial agent of the invention provides a food additive sanitizing composition suitable for use in environments which heretofore had to be sanitized with less desirable agents and processes.

Generally, the antimicrobial agent of the invention functions to sanitize or disinfect the intended surface of application. Moreover, the antimicrobial agent of the invention is preferably recognized as food additive which may intentionally be included into compositions which are ultimately ingested by humans.

Thus, the composition of the invention will not leave a residue which, upon contact with foodstuffs, will contaminate and preclude ingestion of the prepared food.

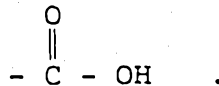
Generally, the composition of the invention is applicable

- 9 -

to all food preparation environments such as dairy and food processing, preparation and serving facilities as well as other contact sensitive areas such as day and child care facilities, health care facilities, and domestic
5 households.

Thus, a sanitizer and disinfectant which is excellent microbically, may be composed entirely of food additive ingredients, does not require a post-sanitizer rinse, imparts no off-flavor or odor to food, possess residual
10 activity, and minimize the potential for acute and chronic human toxicity and environmental contamination fulfills a need not currently met by presently available sanitizers.

Generally, the antimicrobial agent of the invention comprises a two part carboxylic acid system. Carboxylic
15 acids are characterized by the presence of one or more carboxyl groups which generally have the structure:



20 Carboxylic acids as a group are usually considered to be relatively weak acids. Most carboxylic acids are weaker than the weakest of the inorganic acids. However, we have found that two carboxylic acids, when used together,
25 provide unique antimicrobial efficacy despite this classification.

Generally, the composition of the invention includes an antimicrobial agent having an aliphatic polyunsaturated carboxylic acid and an aromatic carboxylic acid including
30 salts of these acids, and hydroxy derivatives of these acids, and esters of these acids.

Specifically, aliphatic carboxylic acids useful in the invention include poly-unsaturated monocarboxylic acids wherein their primary alkyl moiety comprises a carbon chain
35 ranging in size from 5 to ~~12~~¹⁴ carbon atoms.

Along with the polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acids useful in the invention, are carboxylic acid derivatives including carboxylic acid esters, or carboxylic acid salt derivatives.

5 Generally, the alkyl polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid of the invention may take the form of a salt formed by reaction with an alkaline substance most commonly from oxides, hydroxides or carbonates of monovalent and divalent
10 metals in Periodic Groups IA and IIA; but also with basic positive complexes such as ammonium radical and organic amine moieties. Preferably, these acid salts will be food additive so as to not contaminate finished foodstuffs through contact with food preparation surfaces.

The alkyl polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid of the
15 invention may also be derivatized as an ester. Common ester derivatives of polyunsaturated carboxylic acids useful in this invention include those wherein the hydroxy group is replaced by an alkoxy group which may also comprise any number of alkyl moieties which do not impeded
20 the efficacy of the polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid ester compound.

More preferably, the aliphatic carboxylic acids are di-unsaturated having an alkyl carbon chain which ranges in size from 5 to 8 carbon atoms. Most preferably the alkyl
25 di-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid comprises sorbic acid as well as sorbic acid salts.

Generally, depending on whether the composition is a concentrate or use dilution formulation, the aliphatic poly-unsaturated carboxylic acids of the invention may be
30 used in a concentration ranging generally from about 0.05 wt-% to about 80 wt-%, preferably from about 0.1 wt-% to about 70.0 wt-%, and most preferably from about 0.2 wt-% to about 60 wt-%.

The second element of the antimicrobial agent of the
35 invention is an aromatic carboxylic acid. The aromatic

carboxylic acid useful in the invention may be substituted or unsubstituted, as well as derivatized to form an hydroxy derivative ester, or salt of an aromatic carboxylic acid.

Generally, the aromatic carboxylic acid of the invention comprises a benzene ring structure which may be substituted or unsubstituted. Substitution will generally take the form of any number of moieties or compounds including dicarboxyl and anhydride species appended to the ring structure at any variety of locations.

The aromatic carboxylic acid of the invention may also be derivatized into the form of a carboxylic acid ester, or carboxylic acid salt.

Generally, the aromatic carboxylic acid of the invention may also take the form of a salt formed by reaction with an alkaline substance most commonly from oxides, hydroxides or carbonates of monovalent and divalent metals in Periodic Groups IA and IIA; but also with basic positive complexes such as the ammonium radical and organic amine moieties.

The aromatic carboxylic acid of the invention may also comprise an ester derivative of that carboxylic acid. Useful ester derivatives of carboxylic acids are those wherein the hydroxy group is replaced by an alkoxy group which may comprise any number of different alkyl or aryl moieties which do not impede the efficacy of the benzoic acid compound.

Accordingly, the aromatic carboxylic acid of the invention may comprise any number of acid salts, acid esters, as well as the substituted or unsubstituted aromatic acid compounds. For example, ethoxy benzoic acid, methoxy benzoic acid, benzoyl benzoic acid, hydroxy or dihydroxy benzoic acid as acid aldehydes and anhydrides and the like. Generally, aromatic carboxylic acids useful in the antimicrobial agent of the invention are those which

- 12 -

contain at least one benzene ring structure and one or more carboxyl groups directly attached to the ring.

The composition of the invention preferably comprises food additive chemical compounds which will effectively, but safely, provide antimicrobial efficacy within the context of the invention. Preferably, the antimicrobial agent of the invention will comprise benzoic acid, salts of benzoic acid or esters of benzoic acid combinations thereof within the antimicrobial agent.

Generally, depending on whether the composition is a concentrate or use dilution formulation, the concentration of aromatic carboxylic acid useful in the invention in concentration ranges from about 0.05 wt-% to about 80 wt-% preferably from about 0.05 wt-% to 70 wt-%, and most preferably from about 0.05 wt-% to about 60 wt-%.

The concentration ranges for both the aromatic carboxylic acid and the alkyl polyunsaturated carboxylic acid are presented as guidelines. Actual concentrations vary depending upon the carrier used in the formulation, whether aqueous, organic, inorganic or a mixture thereof; and the overall nature of the formulation, whether neat solution, liquid concentrate, dispersion, emulsion, gel or solid; the delivery and application method; and the compositional adjustment necessary for physical and chemical stability during storage.

II. Carrier

The antimicrobial composition of the invention may also comprise a carrier. The carrier within this composition functions to dilute and transport the antimicrobial agents to the intended surface of application and define the form of the composition. Moreover, depending upon the nature of the carrier, this constituent may be used to maintain the antimicrobial agent on the intended surface for an extended period of time in the form of a film or food additive residue after application. Keeping these functions in

- 13 -

mind, the carriers useful in the invention should preferably maintain the food additive character of the composition while not obscuring the efficacy of the antimicrobial agent.

5 The composition of the invention may take the form of a neat solution or liquid concentrate, dispersion, emulsion, aerosol, gel or solid. The invention may also take the form of a liquid impregnated sponge or towelette where the carrier comprises, in addition to a liquid, a chemically
10 inert carrier such as a fabric or sponge. Accordingly, the choice of any carrier useful in the invention will depend somewhat on the intended form and intended use application of the final composition. If the invention takes the form of a solution, dispersion, emulsion, aerosol, gel, or solid
15 useful carriers include water or aqueous systems as well as organic solvents, ^{organic semi-solids} and organic and inorganic based solid carriers. Preferably the organic solvent is of food grade purity and food additive classification as certified by the Food Chemicals Codex and United States Food and Drug
20 Administration respectively.

Organics which have been found especially useful include simple alkyl alcohols such as ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, and the like. Also useful are polyhydric alcohols such as, glycerol, sorbitol, propylene glycol,
25 polyethylene glycols, and the like. Any of these compounds may be used singly or in combination with other organics or water.

If the invention is formulated as a solid, the carrier may be selected from any organic or inorganic compound or
30 mixture thereof which imparts a solid form and hardness to the present composition. These solids may be formed by a hot melt, pour-cast manufacturing process, extrusion or by compression. Typical organic ingredients which may be used in the antimicrobial composition of the invention to harden
35 this composition include amides and polyols, as well as

certain high melting point nonionic and anionic surfactants.

For example, stearic monoethanolamide, stearic diethanolamide and urea have been found to effectively
5 result in the formation of a hardened product. In addition, carboxylic acids themselves can be used to harden solids or act as binders in compression solids forming. Moreover, polyols such as polyethylene glycol, and polyhydric sugar alcohols such as mannitol, and the like or
10 mixtures thereof have all been found to impart a hardened but soluble character when combined in the composition of the invention.

Surfactants useful in the invention as a carrier are solid, generally high melting analogs of nonionics and
15 anhydrous metallic salts of anionic surfactants. Liquid surfactants, both anionic and nonionic, may be used as carriers for liquid systems in accordance with the invention.

Preferred surfactants include nonyl phenol ethoxylates,
20 linear alkyl alcohol ethoxylates, ethylene oxide\propylene oxide block copolymers, glycerol esters, polyoxyethylene glycerol esters, polyglycerol esters, sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, sucrose esters, polyethylene ethers, dioctyl sodium sulfo succinate,
25 stearyl lactylate, and complex esters such as acetylated, lactylated, citrated, succinylated, and diacetyl tartarated glycerides.

Other organic compounds which may be used as hardeners within the composition of the invention include sugars, and
30 modified starches or celluloses which have been made water soluble through acid or alkaline treatment processes.

Inorganics which may be used in forming the hardened antimicrobial composition of the invention include salts formed of Periodic Groups IA and IIA metals; also including
35 ammonium with the corresponding negative ions or radicals

- 15 -

of mineral acids such as chloride ions, carbonate ions, nitrate ions, phosphate ions, sulfate ions, as well as their respective hydrates, protic salt forms, or in the case of phosphates, the various condensate species.

5 Generally, any type of carrier capable of solidifying the antimicrobial agent may be used in accordance with the invention. However, preferably, the solidifying agent has food additive status as defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration. To this end, urea, Pluronic™ F-
10 108 and polyethylene glycol have been found to be beneficial solidifying agents.

Generally, depending on whether the composition is a concentrate or use dilution formulation, the carrier comprises a significant portion of the composition of the
15 invention ranging from about 50 wt-% or more to about 99.4 wt-%, preferably from about 60 wt-% to about 98.0 wt-%, and most preferably from about 70 wt-% to about 95 wt-%.

Notably, the carrier should be chosen and used at a concentration which does not inhibit the antimicrobial
20 efficacy of the active in the present composition; and be preferably food additive.

III. Adjuvants

Alternatively, the composition of the invention may also comprise any number of adjuvants. Depending upon the
25 formulatary benefits provided the composition, the adjuvants may partially or wholly displace any carrier used in the composition. Generally, in accordance with the invention, there may be included within this composition formulatary adjuvants or adjuvants which assist in the
30 application of the invention with respect to performance, form, aesthetics and stability when stored or used within adverse conditions.

Formulatory adjuvants include coupling agents, solubilizers, or hydrotropes used to solubilize the
35 antimicrobial agent of the invention; as well as maintain

- 16 -

the storage stability of the present composition. This function may be accomplished exclusively by the carrier whether liquid or solid, organic or inorganic. However, in situations which require formulation of a concentrated antimicrobial system, an additional inorganic or organic agent may be introduced into the system to facilitate solubilization of the antimicrobial agent.

To this end, any number of organic coupling agents may be used including monofunctional and polyfunctional alcohols. Those coupling agents which have been found most useful include linear alkyl alcohols such as, for example, ethanol, isopropanol, and the like. Polyfunctional alcohols include glycerol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and the like. Most preferably, any coupling agent used in the present composition has food additive status so as to ensure the safety of the composition if consumed.

The concentration of these compounds when used in this capacity generally, depending upon whether the composition is a concentrate or use dilution formulation, ranges from about 0 wt-% to about 80 wt-%, preferably from about 0 wt-% to about 60 wt-%, and most preferably from about 0 wt-% to about 55 wt-%.

In addition, acidulants may also be considered part of the adjuvant constituency. These may comprise one or more organic or inorganic acidulants useful in lowering the pH of the present composition. Acidulants useful in the present composition include all food grade and food additive organic and inorganic acids. Specific examples of said acidulants are; lactic acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, adipic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, fumaric acid, citric acid, malic acid, or mixtures thereof. Preferred acids include lactic acid and propionic acid. Propionic acid has been found to have advanced coupling effects in aqueous environments

- 17 -

along with the ability to alter the pH of the composition. Further it has been found that concentrations of acid resulting in a use solution pH ranging from about 2 to 6.5, preferably from about 2.5 to 5.5, and most preferably from about 2.5 to 5.0 provide the most desirable antimicrobial efficacy.

The composition of the invention may also comprise anionic and nonionic surfactants (surface active agents). These may be used to solubilize constituents in the formulary process or provide storage stability of formulated product, as well as the use utility of providing cleaning capabilities (through lowering of surface tension coefficients) to the invention. Any number of surfactants or combination thereof may be used in accordance with the invention.

The surface active agents which have been found useful in accordance with the invention include anionic and nonionic agents including, for example, propylene glycol esters, glycerol esters, polyoxyethylene glycerol esters, polyglycerol esters, sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, sucrose esters, polyethylene glycol esters, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene ether adducts, dioctylsodium succinate, stearyl lactylate, and complex esters such as acetylated or lactylated, citrated, succinylated, and diacetyl tartarated glycerides.

One class of surfactants which has been found especially useful in formulating various embodiments of the present composition includes nonionic surfactants which have a mixture of hydrophilic and hydrophobic character created by the presence of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene moieties. Generally, nonionic surfactants which are especially useful include those surfactants having about 200 to 300 moles of ethoxylation and about 30 to 80 moles of propoxylation. Preferably, the nonionic surfactant has food additive status.

- 18 -

One surfactant which has been found most useful is Pluronic™ F-108 which is a nonionic surfactant generally defined as a polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene block copolymer sold by BASF-Wyandotte Company Inc.

5 Surface tension altering constituents of the invention may be used in the present composition, regardless of former application, in concentrations ranging from about 0 to 65 wt-%, preferably from about 0.01 wt-% to 55 wt-%, and most preferably from about 0.02 wt-% to 45 wt-%.

10 Here again, the concentration of surfactant adjuvant may vary depending upon the nature of the formulatory composition as a whole, the concentration of antimicrobial agent, as well as the nature of the storage and application environments among other factors.

15 The claimed composition may also take the form of an aqueous or organic spray. The spray may take the form of a pump spray or an aerosol spray. In instances where an aerosol spray is used, various aerosol propellants may be present including n-butane, isobutane, n-propane, and the
20 like. Preferably, the aerosol will contain iso-butane which is cleared as food additive. The concentration for propellants may range from about 3 wt-% to about 25 wt-%, from about 4 wt-% to about 20 wt-%, and preferably from about 5 wt-% to about 15 wt-%.

25 The composition of the invention may also comprise adjuvants which facilitate the application of this composition to any number of environments through various vehicles. Specifically, the composition of the invention is useful as an antimicrobial agent in hand creams,
30 sponges, towelettes, hand cleansers, personal care cleansers, dips, sprays and washes among other uses.

Accordingly, the composition of the invention may comprise any number of conditioners or emollients, humectants, perfumes, thickeners, opacifiers or
35 particulates, colorants or dyes, cleansers or other agents

- 19 -

useful in facilitating the application of the composition of the invention to its intended application.

Depending upon the physical form, the composition of the invention may be formed by methods known to those of skill in the art including compression molding, pour
5 casting, and hot melt casting.

The following table provides a general directory of concentrations for the various compositional forms of the invention.

10

EMBODIMENT CONCENTRATION RANGES (wt-%)
BY PRODUCT FORM

5	<u>USE SOLUTION</u>	<u>USEFUL</u>	<u>PREFERRED</u>	<u>MOST PREFERRED</u>
	Sorbic Acid	0.1 - 3	0.1 - 1.5	0.2 - 0.7
	Benzoic Acid	0.05 - 6	0.05 - 3	0.05 - 1.5
	Carrier	50 - 99.85	60 - 99.85	70 - 99.75
	Adjuvants	0 - 50	0 - 40	0.05 - 30
10	Use Solution pH	2 - 6.5	2.5 - 5.5	2.5 - 5.0
15	<u>LIQUID CONCENTRATE*</u>	<u>USEFUL</u>	<u>PREFERRED</u>	<u>MOST PREFERRED</u>
	Sorbic Acid	1 - 15	1 - 12	1 - 10
	Benzoic Acid	0.5 - 30	0.5 - 25	0.5 - 20
	Carrier	40 - 98.5	50 - 98.5	60 - 98.5
	Adjuvants	0 - 60	0 - 50	0 - 40
20	<u>SOLID CONCENTRATE*</u>	<u>USEFUL</u>	<u>PREFERRED</u>	<u>MOST PREFERRED</u>
	Sorbic Acid	0.05 - 80	1 - 68	2 - 60
25	Benzoic Acid	0.1 - 80	0.5 - 70	1 - 60

Carrier	0	- 98.85	20	- 98.5	30	- 97
Adjuvants	0	- 99.85	0	- 98.5	0	- 97

-
- 5 * Use dilution pH of concentrates is substantially similar to ranges attained with Use Solution.

WO 92/21239

PCT/US92/00794

WO 92/21239

PERSONAL CARE
CLEANSERS

GEL HAND SOAP

USEFUL

PREFERRED

MOST PREFERRED

5

Sorbic Acid

.05 - 3

0.1 - 1.5

0.1 - 0.7

Benzoic Acid

.05 - 6

0.05 - 3.00

0.05 - 1.50

Carrier

30 - 99.9

35 - 99.85

40 - 99.85

Adjuvants

0 - 80

0.25 - 62.0

0.5 - 55

10

Product pH

2 - 6.5

2.5 - 5

2.5 - 5

15

- 22 -

PCT/US92/00794

- 23 -

Generally adjuvants such as surfactants, polyethylene glycol, mineral oil and the like may be present in a concentration ranging from about 0 wt-% to 80.0 wt-%, preferably from about 0 wt-% to 62.0 wt-%, and most
5 preferably from about 0 to 55 wt-% when present.

WORKING EXAMPLES

Following below are formulatory, stability, application and microbiological working examples using the composition
5 of the invention. While the invention is exemplified by the working examples, it is not limited to the examples shown hereinafter.

Working Example I

10 To be registered as a food contact sanitizer, a microbicide must provide a 5 log order reduction of the test organisms within 30 seconds, (Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists; Paragraph 960.09, 15th Ed., 1990). Table IA
15 shows formulation of working and comparative examples used in bactericidal testing of the composition of the invention. The pH of the test solutions was adjusted to pH 2.6 to 3.0 with lactic acid in order to maintain a uniform pH for comparison.

TABLE IA
FORMULATIONS WT%

<u>CONSTITUENT</u>	<u>WORKING EXAMPLES</u>		<u>COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES</u>								
	1A	1B	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	1G	1H	1I
Sorbic	0.30	0.25	0.23	0.30	0.23	0.23	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.23	
Benzoic	0.30	0.25									
Tartaric			0.23						0.30		
Propionic Acid				0.30						0.23	
Adipic Acid					0.23						
Malic Acid						0.23		0.30			
Succinic Acid							0.30				
Lactic Acid	0.25	0.30	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.7
Ethanol	20.00	15.00	13.00	20.00	12.30	13.60	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.60	20.0
Deionized Water	79.15	84.20	86.34	79.15	86.99	85.69	79.15	79.15	79.15	85.69	79.3

TABLE IBANTIMICROBIAL TESTING
LOG REDUCTIONS

<u>COMPOSITION</u>	<u>Log Reduction (CFU/ml)</u>	
	<u>S. aureus</u>	<u>E. coli</u>
Working Example 1A	6.85	6.97
Working Example 1B	3.59	5.00
Comparative Example 1A	2.58	1.60
Comparative Example 1B	1.30	1.10
Comparative Example 1C	1.44	1.07
Comparative Example 1D	2.92	1.04
Comparative Example 1E	1.05	1.02
Comparative Example 1F	0.82	0.98
Comparative Example 1G	0.53	0.82
Comparative Example 1H	2.55	0.79
Comparative Example 1I	1.97	0.72

The results of Table IB indicate the unique character of the microbicidal activity of the invention, embodied in Working Examples 1A and 1B, which provided a 5 log order reduction of both Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli thereby providing sanitizing efficacy, meeting . . .O.A.C. requirements.

- 26 -

Working Example II

Testing was then undertaken to determine the antimicrobial effectiveness of one embodiment of the invention at pH's ranging from 3.0 to 4.0. As seen in 5 Table II, Control compositions A and B contained the indicated wt-% of ethanol with the balance being water. Working Examples 2A through 2L contained the indicated amount of organic acids and ethanol with the balance being water. The pH in all solutions was adjusted with lactic 10 acid.

TABLE II

pH Spectrum of Antimicrobial Activity

Composition	Sorbic Acid Conc. (wt-%)	Benzoic Acid Conc. (wt-%)	Ethanol Conc. (wt-%)	pH 3.0		pH 3.5		pH 4.0	
				S. aureus Log red.	E. coli Log red.	S. aureus Log red.	E. coli Log red.	S. aureus Log red.	E. coli Log red.
Control A	-	-	15	1.09	0.38	-	-	-	-
Control B	-	-	20	4.00	0.38	0.48	0.62	0.49	0.67
2A	0.1	-	15	4.52	0.36	-	-	-	-
2B	0.2	-	15	5.00	0.38	-	-	-	-
2C	0.1	-	20	5.00	0.42	0.59	0.54	0.83	0.59
2D	0.2	-	20	5.00	0.95	1.26	0.58	1.79	0.58
2E	0.3	-	20	5.00	4.48	1.96	1.23	5.00	1.02
2F	-	0.1	20	5.00	0.48	0.99	0.69	1.16	0.68
2G	-	0.2	20	5.00	0.51	2.42	1.29	4.51	0.72
2H	-	0.3	20	5.00	1.92	4.40	5.00	5.00	5.00
2I	0.1	0.1	20	5.00	1.41	1.66	0.76	3.16	0.72
2J	0.15	0.15	20	-	-	3.47	3.85	5.00	1.88
2K	0.2	0.2	20	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
2L	0.25	0.25	20	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

- 28 -

The data in Table II indicate that both sorbic acid (Working Examples 2A - 2E) and benzoic acid (Working Examples 2F - 2H) alone are effective against Staphylococcus aureus at pH 3.0. However, neither sorbic acid, nor benzoic acid alone are totally effective against Escherichia coli at pH 3.

At pH 3.5 the effectiveness on an overall basis appeared to drop somewhat except that the relative effectiveness of Working Examples 2I through 2L appeared to be unaffected.

At pH 4.0 the effectiveness of all compositions appears to have improved on the whole. Working Examples 2K and 2L maintained their activity of 5 log order kill at all three pH levels.

15

- 29 -

Working Example III

Wide microbiocidal spectrum is a very important characteristic in selecting a sanitizer or disinfectant for treating food handling or processing equipment. This spectrum may include microorganisms responsible for food borne illnesses, such as Staphylococcus aureus and Salmonella choleraesuis; food spoilage microorganism, such as Aspergillus niger and Saccharomyces cerevisiae; and pathogenic microorganisms, such as Trichophyton mentagrophytes, Candida albicans and Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and sometimes Escherichia coli. The pathogenic organisms are also important in health care facilities, day-care centers and the like, where it is important to control the spread of pathogens directly and indirectly from person to person.

The compositions shown in Table IIIA were prepared by mixing the constituents together for thirty minutes and then adjusting the pH. Both the sanitizing and disinfecting tests were performed in accordance with A.O.A.C. testing.

TABLE IIIA

FORMULATIONS (wt-%)

CONSTITUENT	WORKING EXAMPLE 3	COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3A	COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3B
ETHANOL	22.00	22.00	14.00
SORBIC ACID	0.40	-	-
BENZOIC ACID	0.20	-	-
LACTIC ACID	0.15	0.15	0.50
PLURONIC F108	0.03	0.03	-
WATER	77.22	77.82	85.06
PHOSPHORIC ACID	-	-	0.44
final pH	2.86	2.80 (lactic acid) adj.	2.85 (KOH adj.)

TABLE IIIB

ANTIMICROBIAL TESTING

SANITIZING EFFICACY (LOG REDUCTION (CFU/ml))*

	WORKING	COMPARATIVE	
	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLES	
	3	3A	3B
E. coli	5.00	0.47	0.51
S. aureus	5.00	0.41	1.28

DISINFECTING EFFICACY (no growth tubes/total tubes)
A.O. A. C. USE DILUTION TEST

W/O SERUM

S. aureus	60/60	0/20	17/20
S. choleraesuis	59/60	20/20	19/20
P. aeruginosa	60/60	20/20	19/20

WITH SERUM

S. aureus	60/60	1/20	4/20
S. choleraesuis	59/60	19/20	20/20
P. aeruginosa	60/60	20/20	16/20

FUNGICIDAL

T. mentagrophytes	20/20	0/20	0/20
A. Niger	20/20	0/20	0/20

YEAST

C. albicans	20/20	0/20	0/20
S. cerevisae	20/20	0/20	0/20

*Colony Forming Units Per Milliter

- 32 -

The data in Table IIIB demonstrates that comparative examples 3A and 3B containing ethanol, lactic acid and phosphoric acid are not active against the fungi and yeast species. Likewise, Comparative Examples 3A and 3B were somewhat effective against the Salmonella choleraesuis and Pseudomonas aeruginosa in the disinfectant testing, but not active in the sanitizing testing.

Meanwhile, Working Example 3 was unconditionally effective in all of the tests and demonstrates a wide microbiocidal spectrum.

Working Example IV

The composition of the invention may also be incorporated into a sanitizing wipe. The composition of the invention may be altered depending on whether it is to be used for sanitizing handwipes or hard surface sanitizing wipes. In the case of hand sanitizing towelettes, humectants may be added to provide an improved hand feel. These may include glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol, and the like.

Incorporating an antimicrobial into a presaturated sanitizing or disinfectant wipe offers the advantage that it can be disposed of when soiled without worry of spreading microbial contamination. The composition of the invention is compatible with natural and synthetic fibers including cellulosic, polyester, polypropylene, or blends (cotton-polyester) of woven or non-woven fabrics.

In the formulation of embodiments of the invention useful in towelette form, Working Examples 4A through 4F were formulated by mixing the relative amounts of constituents for a time adequate to provide uniform solutions. Towelettes of non-woven fabric were then saturated with the respective solutions. These compositions were then stored without detriment to their relative antimicrobial efficacy.

TABLE IV

Ingredients wt%	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
Sorbic Acid	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.4
Benzoic Acid	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.20	0.2
Ethanol	12.00	20.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	22.0
Pluronic F108	-	0.30	0.30	-	-	-
Propylene Glycol	-	-	-	10.00	5.00	5.0
Glycerine	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.0
Lactic Acid	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.30	0.15	0.2
Deionized Water	qs	qs	qs	qs	qs	qs

pH adjusted 2.8 - 4.0

The compositions of Working Examples 4A through 4C are appropriate for use as a hard surface cleaner disinfectant wipe. The composition of Working Examples 4D through 4F are appropriate for human or animal use as sanitizing dips, wipes or cloths.

Working Example V

The composition of the invention may be incorporated into a hand cream base to provide antimicrobial properties, with aesthetic appeal. The following table discloses two exemplary hand cream formulas (5A and 5B) which may use the composition of the invention.

	Example 5A	Example 5B
	<u>Ingredients (wt-%)</u>	
Part <u>A</u>	0.2	0.4
	0.1	0.2
	5.0	15.8
	5.0	5.0
	3.0	3.0
	qs	qs
	(for pH adj.)	
	65.7	57.6
	pH adjusted to 2.8 - 4.0	
Part <u>B</u>	8.0	8.0
	5.0	3.0
	6.0	3.0
	1.0	3.0
	1.0	1.0

This product is formed by standard two part emulsion mix. Part A is mixed until homogeneous and pH adjusted to 2.8 - 4.0.

Part B is weighed, heated to 60°C. with agitation until all ingredients are melted and homogeneous. Thereafter, Part A is heated to 50°C. and Part A is added to Part B under high shear mixing until a homogeneous, white, smooth product is formed and cooled to 30°C. These formulas exhibited long shelf stability.

- 35 -

Working Example VI

Sanitizing hand soaps control food borne illnesses such as pathogenic bacteria which may be transferred from the food handler to the product as well as those bacteria which are transferred in cross contamination of food stuffs. In 5 this classification, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated sanitizing hand soaps which may be used before returning to work in food process areas as E2 hand sanitizing cleansers.

Typically, active ingredients which meet antimicrobial 10 requirements in this type of soap such as chlorine, iodine, parachlorometaxyleneol and chlorohexidine gluconate are deleterious to the skin.

The composition of the invention may be incorporated into an hand sanitizing soap to provide a product which 15 exhibits the antimicrobial activity necessary to pass the required U.S.D.A. test protocol. Chlorine Germicidal Equivalency Concentration; Method 955.16, A.O.A.C. Official Methods of Analysis, 15th Edition, Vol. 1, 1990.

The composition of the invention is compatible with a 20 wide variety of surfactants, providing a measure of latitude in formulation. Table VIA illustrates four formulations useful as hand soaps which incorporate the composition of the invention.

TABLE VIA
SANITIZING HAND SOAP FORMULAS

FORMULA	wt %			
	6A	6B	6C	6D
Sorbic Acid	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
Benzoic Acid	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Ethanol	8.0	8.0	8.0	15.0
Propylene Glycol	5.0	5.0	5.0	---
Glycerine	---	3.0	---	3.0
Sorbitol	6.0	---	5.0	5.0
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	---	20.0	---	---
Sodium Lauryl Ether Sulfate	15.0	---	---	12.0
Sodium Alpha Olefin Sulphonate	---	---	22.0	---
Triethanolamine linear alkane sulphonate	---	---	---	3.0
Sodium Laureth Sulfosuccinate	6.0	12.0	---	4.0
Hydroxypropyl Guar	---	---	---	0.4
Hydroxyethyl Cellulose	0.5	0.5	0.5	---
Lactic Acid	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Deionized Water	56.2	48.2	55.2	53.0

pH 3.5 - 4.5 adjusted with Lactic Acid

- 37 -

TABLE VIB

Antimicrobial Results
CHLORINE GERMICIDAL EQUIVALENCY TEST

Staphylococcus aureus
Subculture Series

<u>Sample</u>	<u>PPM</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
Chlorine	50	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Chlorine	100	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
Chlorine	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Formula 6B	1:1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Salmonella typhi
Subculture Series

<u>Sample</u>	<u>PPM</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
Chlorine	50	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Chlorine	100	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
Chlorine	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Formula 6B	1:1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key

- indicates no growth
+ indicates growth

Table VIB illustrates this antimicrobial data. The Working Example 6B was diluted 1:1 with deionized water, then tests run. As can be seen, Working Example 6B exhibits antimicrobial efficacy greater than 200 ppm available chlorine equivalents.

Working Example VII

The invention may also be formulated in the form of a concentrate. In turn, these may then be used as dilutions to form use concentration disinfectant or sanitizing solutions as needed. Tables VIIA and VIIB provide compositional formulations and dilution schemes for compositions in accordance with the invention.

TABLE VIIA

<u>CONSTITUENT</u>	(WT-%)			
	<u>7A</u>	<u>7B</u>	<u>7C</u>	<u>7D</u>
ETHANOL	50.0	73.05	96.2	97.16
SORBIC ACID	1.0	1.50	1.5	1.76
BENZOIC ACID	0.5	0.75	1.5	0.88
PROPYLENE GLYCOL	10.0	15.00	-	-
LACTIC ACID	1.5	2.00	0.8	-
PHOSPHORIC ACID	-	-	-	0.20
WATER	q.s	q.s.	-	-

These were then diluted in water to yield use solutions in the following manner.

TABLE VIIB

<u>Working Example</u>	<u>Dilution</u>
7A	1 part Working Example 7A in total of 2.5 parts solution
7B	1 part Working Example 7B in total of 3.75 parts solution
7C	1 part Working Example 7C in total of 5.00 parts solution
7D	1 part Working Example 7D in total of 4.40 parts solution

Working Example VIII

An additional embodiment of the invention was then formulated based solely on an aqueous carrier. Generally, the antimicrobial agent of the invention, in its most preferred form, as sorbic acid and benzoic acid was intermixed with water in the concentrations provided in Table VIIIA. The pH of this system without adjustment ranged from 2.9 to 3.0. This pH was adjusted higher with potassium hydroxide to investigate the solubility profile of the compositions as well as the effective antimicrobial properties of this composition. Additionally, we discovered that the use of propionic acid provided a highly soluble system having high antimicrobial efficacy. The antimicrobial efficacy of these compositions is tested as indicated in Table VIIIB. As can be seen, all samples measured at 40°C. had a high sanitizing efficacy. Furthermore, those samples measured at 25°C. having a pH below 3.0 also had a high efficacy.

- 41 -

TABLE VIIIA

<u>CONSTITUENTS (wt-%)</u>	<u>8A</u>	<u>8B</u>	<u>8C</u>	<u>8D</u>	<u>8E</u>
Sorbic acid	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Benzoic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Propionic acid	-	-	5.0	15.0	15.0
H ₂ O	99.4	99.4	94.4	84.4	84.4
pH (Adjusted with 45% KOH)	3.0	3.5	3.5	2.3	2.9

TABLE VIIIB
SANITIZING EFFICACYLog Reductions (CFU/mL)

<u>Formula</u>	<u>pH</u>	<u>test</u> <u>temp (°C)</u>	<u>E.coli</u>	<u>S.aureus</u>
8A	3.0	40	7	7
8B	3.5	40	7	4.85
8A	3.0	25	<1	<1
8B	3.5	25	<1	<1
8C	3.5	40	7	7
8C	2.3	25	7	7
8D	2.9	25	7	7

- 43 -

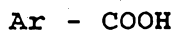
The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising a major portion of carrier and an antimicrobial agent, said agent consisting essentially of:

5 (a) an effective sanitizing amount of a C₅₋₁₄ aliphatic poly-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid, acid derivative or mixture thereof

(b) an effective sanitizing amount of an aromatic carboxylic acid, acid derivative, or mixture thereof comprising the formula



wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure and the pH of the composition is between 2 and 6.5.

15 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises food additive constituents.

3. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid or acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid salt, carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid ester, or mixtures thereof.

4. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said aliphatic carboxylic acid comprises an alkyl di-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. The composition of claim 4, wherein said aliphatic di-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid comprises sorbic acid or a salt thereof.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein said sorbic



acid or acid salt or acid ester is present in a concentration ranging from 0.05 wt-% to 3 wt-%.

7. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said aromatic carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of substituted aromatic carboxylic acids, unsubstituted aromatic carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

8. The composition of claim 7, wherein said aromatic carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, a benzoic acid salt, a benzoic acid ester, or mixtures thereof.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein said benzoic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-%.

10. The composition of any one of the preceding claims additionally comprising an acidulant, said acidulant selected from the group consisting of an organic acid, an inorganic acid, or mixtures thereof.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein said acidulant is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, adipic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, fumaric acid, propionic acid, citric acid, malic acid, lactic acid, or mixtures thereof.

12. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, an organic semi-solid, an organic solid, an inorganic solid or mixtures thereof.

13. The composition of claim 12 wherein said carrier



is selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆ alkanol, an alkyl polyol, or mixtures thereof.

14. The composition of claim 12, wherein said carrier is present in a concentration ranging from greater than
5 50.0 wt-% to 99.4 wt-%.

15. An antimicrobial composition comprising a major portion of carrier and an antimicrobial agent, said antimicrobial agent comprising:

(a) from 0.05 to 3 wt-% of an di-unsaturated
10 monocarboxylic acid or salt thereof having 5 to 8 carbon atoms;

(b) from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% of an aromatic carboxylic acid of the formula



15 wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure.

16. The composition of claim 15 wherein said di-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid comprises sorbic acid or a salt thereof.

20 17. The composition of claim 16 wherein said sorbic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.1 wt-% to 1.5 wt-%.

18. The composition of any one of claims 15 to 17 wherein said aromatic carboxylic acid comprises benzoic
25 acid or a salt thereof.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein said benzoic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.05 wt-% to 3 wt-%.

20. The composition of any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, an organic semi-solid, an organic solid, an inorganic solid or mixtures thereof.

5 21. The composition of claim 20, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkanol, alkyl polyol, or mixtures thereof.

22. The composition of claim 20, wherein said carrier is present in a concentration ranging from 0.1 wt-% to 99.0
10 wt-%.

23. An antimicrobial composition comprising:

(a) an antimicrobial agent consisting essentially of from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% sorbic acid and from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% benzoic acid;

15 (b) from 0 wt-% to 2 wt-% of a nonionic surfactant having the formula

$\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O})_y(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z\text{H}$ wherein x and z range from 120 to 135 and y ranges from 50 to 60;

(c) from 0.5 wt-% to 5 wt-% of an acidulant as
20 in lactic acid; and

(d) a major portion of carrier comprising from 30 wt-% to 90 wt-% water, up to 10 wt-% glycerine, up to 20 wt-% propylene glycol, and from 5 wt-% to 40 wt-% ethanol.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein said carrier
25 comprises propionic acid.

25. An antimicrobial composition comprising a presaturated wipe composition, said wipe composition

comprising:

- (a) a major portion of carrier;
- (b) from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% of sorbic acid or any salt thereof; and
- 5 (c) from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% of benzoic acid or any salt thereof.

26. An antimicrobial aerosol comprising:

- (a) from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% sorbic acid or derivatives thereof;
- 10 (b) from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% benzoic acid or derivatives thereof;
- (c) from greater than 50 wt-% to 99.4 wt-% of a carrier; and
- (d) from 4 wt-% to 25 wt-% of a propellant,
15 said propellant selected from the group consisting of n-butane, isobutane, n-propane, or mixtures thereof.

27. An antimicrobial gel comprising:

- (a) from 0.05 wt-% to 3 wt-% sorbic acid or derivatives thereof;
- 20 (b) from 0.05 wt-% to 6 wt-% benzoic acid or derivatives thereof; and
- (c) from greater than 30 wt-% to 99.8 wt-% of a carrier, said carrier selected from the group consisting of surfactants, organic polyols, water, or mixtures thereof.

28. An antimicrobial composition comprising a detergent said detergent comprising:

(a) an antimicrobial agent comprising from 0.1 to 0.7 wt-% sorbic acid and 0.05 to 0.5 wt-% benzoic acid;

5 (b) from 10 wt-% to 40 wt-% of a surfactant, said surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, or mixtures thereof;

10 (c) from 1% to 10% of an acidulant, said acidulant selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, lactic acid, citric acid or mixtures thereof; and

(d) a carrier, said carrier selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol, propylene glycol, glycerine, polyethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof,
15 wherein the composition contains at least 35 wt-% water.

27. An antimicrobial composition comprising a hand cream, said hand cream comprising:

(a) an antimicrobial agent, said antimicrobial agent consisting essentially of from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% benzoic acid and from 0.1 wt-% to 4 wt-% sorbic acid;
20

(b) from 0.1 wt-% to 3 wt-% nonionic surfactant having the formula

$$\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O})_y(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z\text{H}$$
 wherein x and z range from 120 to 135 and y ranges from 50 to 60;

25 (c) from 0.1 wt-% to 5 wt-% of an acidulant, said acidulant comprising lactic acid; and

(d) a major portion of carrier, said carrier

selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol, propylene glycol, glycerine, mineral oil, glycerol stearate, polyethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof.

30. An antimicrobial concentrate, said concentrate
5 comprising an antimicrobial agent, said antimicrobial agent consisting essentially of:

(a) from 0.05 wt-% to 80 wt-% of a polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid, acid derivative or mixture thereof; and

10 (b) from 0.05 wt-% to 80 wt-% of an aromatic carboxylic acid, acid derivative or mixture thereof comprising the formula



15 wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure.

31. The composition of claim 30, wherein said polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid or acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid salt, carboxylic acid ester, carboxylic acid or mixture
20 thereof.

32. The composition of claim 31, wherein said polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid or acid salt comprises an alkyl carbon chain ranging in size from 5 to 8.

33. The composition of claim 32, wherein said
25 polyunsaturated monocarboxylic acid comprises sorbic acid and said aromatic carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, a benzoic acid salt, a benzoic acid ester, or mixtures thereof.

34. The composition of claim 33, wherein the

composition is a liquid comprising a carrier and said sorbic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.5 wt-% to 15 wt-% and benzoic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.5 wt-% to 30 wt-%.

5 35. The composition of claim 33, wherein the composition comprises a solid and said sorbic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.05 wt-% to 80 wt-% and benzoic acid is present in a concentration ranging from 0.1 wt-% to 80 wt-%.

10 36. The composition of claim 34, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, an organic semi-solid, or mixtures thereof.

15 37. The composition of claim 36, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkanols, linear alkyl polyol, a glycol ether, or mixtures thereof.

38. The composition of any one of claims 30 to 37, wherein said concentrate is a solid comprising a carrier.

20 39. The composition of claim 38, wherein said carrier is present in a concentration ranging from 20 wt-% to 99.4 wt-%.

25 40. The composition of claim 38, wherein said carrier is a hardening agent is selected from the group consisting of urea, polyethylene glycol, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene polymers, amides, solid carboxylic acids, saccharides, polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof

41. A method of sanitizing surfaces, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an antimicrobial composition

comprising an antimicrobial agent, said agent consisting essentially of:

5 (i) an effective sanitizing amount of C₅₋₁₄ aliphatic poly-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid, acid derivative, or mixtures thereof; and

10 (ii) an effective sanitizing amount of an aromatic carboxylic acid, acid derivative, or mixtures thereof comprising the formula Ar- COOH wherein Ar comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic structure;

(b) diluting said antimicrobial composition with a carrier to give a solution having a pH of between 2 and 6.5;

15 (c) applying said sanitizing composition to the intended surface; and

(d) removing said sanitizing composition from said surface of application wherein after removal of said sanitizing composition said composition leaves a non-contaminating residue on the surface of application.

20 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said composition comprises a hand cream.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein said composition comprises an antimicrobial wipe and said carrier comprises a woven or non-woven synthetic or natural fabric.

25 44. The method of claim 41, wherein said composition comprises a hand soap detergent cleaner and said carrier comprises a surfactant.

45. The composition of claim 41, wherein said alkyl di-unsaturated monocarboxylic acid comprises sorbic acid or any salt thereof.

5 46. The following composition of claim 41, wherein said aromatic carboxylic acid comprises benzoic acid or any salt thereof.

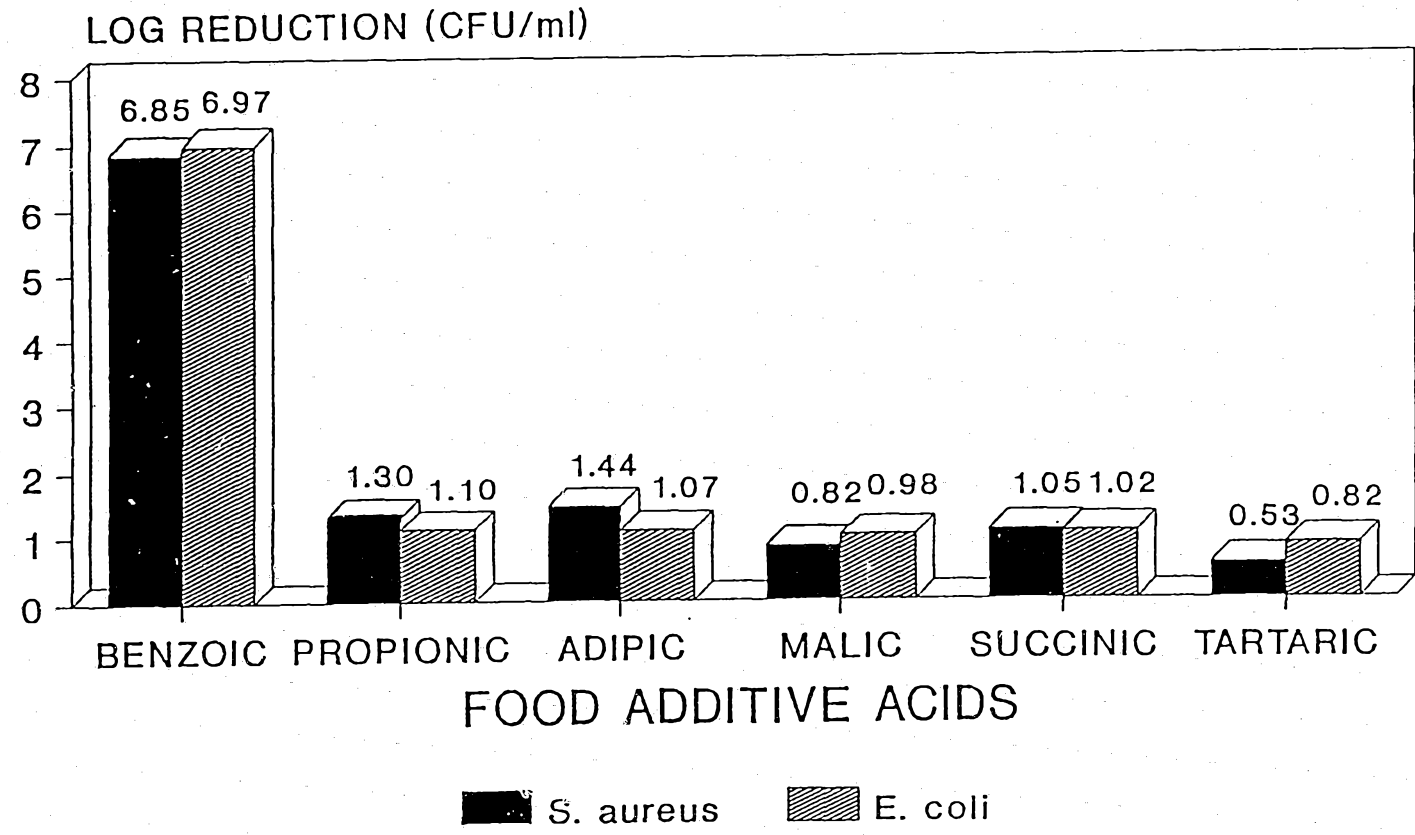
DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 1995.

ECOLAB INCORPORATED

By its Patent Attorneys:

10 GRIFFITH HACK & CO
Fellows Institute of Patent
Attorneys of Australia

SORBIC ACID COMBINATIONS BACTERICIDAL ACTIVITY COMPARISON 0.3% sorbic acid with 0.3% paired acid



11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 92/00794

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC				
Int.Cl. 5 A01N37/10; C11D3/48; A61K7/50; //(A01N37/10, 37:06, 25:34)				
II. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷				
Classification System	Classification Symbols			
Int.Cl. 5	A01N ; C11D ; A61K			
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸				
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹				
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³		
X	WO,A,9 105 842 (BTC BIOTECHNIK INTERNATIONAL GMBH) 2 May 1991 see page 2, line 9 - page 3, line 26 see page 4, line 15 - page 4, line 30; claims; examples ---	1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15, 43, 47, 48		
X	DATABASE WPIL Section Ch, Week 4284, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class C, AN 259495 & JP,A,59 157 007 (UCHIDA S) 6 September 1984 see abstract ---	1-10, 13-15, 17-24, 43, 47, 48		
A	DE,B,1 139 610 (DRAGOCO) 15 October 1962 ---			
-/--				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family			
IV. CERTIFICATION				
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report			
30 SEPTEMBER 1992	20. 10. 92			
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer			
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	DONOVAN T.M.			

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category ^o	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	GB,A,2 211 093 (UNILEVER PLC) 28 June 1989 ----	
A	EP,A,0 252 276 (HENKEL KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN) 13 January 1988 ----	
A	EP,A,0 288 689 (AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY) 2 November 1988 ----	
A	DATABASE WPIL Section Ch, Week 3491, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class C, AN 250419 & SU,A,1 595 431 (EST AGRIC ACAD) 30 September 1990 see abstract ----	
A	US,A,5 013 560 (L.L.STENZ ET. AL.) 7 May 1991 ----	
A	EP,A,0 218 441 (LION CORPORATION) 15 April 1987 -----	

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. US 9200794
SA 61135**

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 30/09/92

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO-A-9105842	02-05-91	DE-C- 3933964	11-04-91
		EP-A- 0447540	25-09-91

DE-B-1139610		None	

GB-A-2211093	28-06-89	None	

EP-A-0252276	13-01-88	DE-A- 3619375	10-12-87
		CA-A- 1277900	18-12-90
		JP-A- 62298517	25-12-87
		US-A- 4920100	24-04-90

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		AU-A- 1334988	22-09-88
		ZA-A- 8802041	19-09-88

US-A-5013560	07-05-91	None	

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