

**BROADWOVENS IN TECHNICAL TEXTILES CONTINUE TO GROW  
BUT LOSE MARKET SHARE**

A new report from DRA forecasts that world consumption of broadwoven fabrics in technical textiles will grow from 5.9 million tonnes per annum in 2000 to 7.6 million in 2010. This is mainly the result of the volume market growth of technical textiles overall, averaging 3.2% per annum over the period, and is despite broadwovens losing market share to faster-growing nonwoven and knitted fabrics.

Tyre cord for cars and commercial vehicles is the product with by far the largest share of the overall broadwoven market in value terms. Sacks, however, account for about a third of all broadwoven consumption in volume terms, but for only 5% in value terms. Airbags, flags and battery separators are forecast to be the three fastest growing products using broadwovens up to 2010, with hoardings, FIBCs and other miscellaneous packaging applications also forecast to have healthy growth rates over the next decade.

Polyester and “other natural” fibres (mainly jute) together account for over half of all fibres used in broadwovens. Over the next decade polyester is forecast to overtake “other natural” fibres to achieve the largest share of any one fibre in broadwoven fabrics. In terms of yarn types, spun staple has the highest current share of consumption while tape and slit film is forecast to be the yarn type with the highest growth rate.

In 2000 North East Asia (including China) accounted for 24% of the consumption of broadwoven fabrics, the highest share of any one region. This is set to increase to 27% by 2010 and Asia as a whole will increase its share to almost 60% by 2010. Meanwhile North America and Western Europe, together, will see a decline in their share from just over 31% in 2000 to 28% in 2010.

The report from which these forecasts are taken: “Broadwoven End-Use Products in Technical Textiles: World Market Forecasts to 2010”, is based on research on 68 different technical textiles end-use products which include broadwoven fabrics and detailed analyses of their make up in terms of 16 different kinds of fibre, 5 yarn types (including high tenacity) and 5 forms of fabric coating.

David Rigby, Chairman of DRA said: “The approach we have developed starts by analysing and forecasting the market for end-use products containing broadwoven fabrics and works back from there to forecast the volumes of fabrics, fibres, yarns and coatings they contain. This is vital information for weavers and coaters, spinners and fibre producers and those speciality chemical and machinery manufacturers who are targeting broadwoven fabrics used in technical textiles”.

For more details on these four reports visit DRA’s website:

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Or visit DRA on Stand 5.1 D42 at Techtextil, 8-10 April, in Frankfurt.