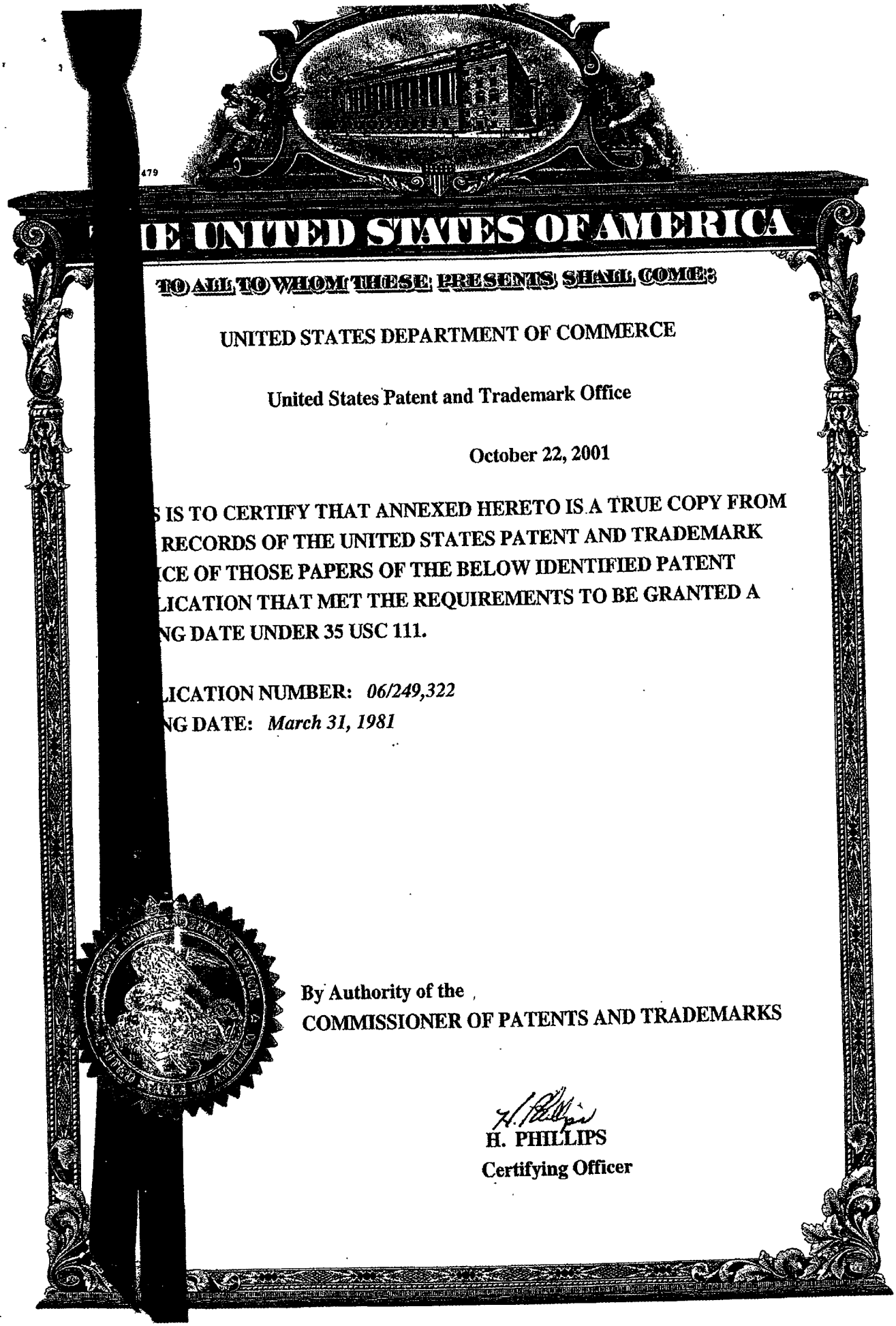
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NON-ASBESTOS FLOORING FELT

Background of the Invention

Decorative sheet-type covering material such as sheet vinyl floor or wall covering is frequently made with a substrate comprising sheet-type felt material. The felt generally used for this purpose comprises, as a major component, cellulosic fibers and/or asbestos fibers. Synthetic fibers are sometimes used but are quite expensive. When accessive amounts of synthetic fibers are used, the felt frequently cannot maintain the required dimensional stability and strength characteristics at the elevated temperatures generally used in the manufacture of sheet vinyl flooring. The use of asbestos fibers in such felt is considered to represent a health hazard, while the use of large amounts of cellulosic fibers results in felt which tends to have poor dimensional stability and which is unduly susceptible to biological degradation, especially when installed on or below grade.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to provide improved sheet type felt, an improved process for preparing sheet type felt and sheet type covering material using such felt.

Sheet type felt of the invention comprises on a dry basis;

a) between about 1 and about 10 weight percent (wt %) glass fibers;
b) between about 3 and about 25 wt % cellulosic fibers;
c) between about 3 and about 20 wt % synthetic organic fibers;
d) between about 3 and about 70 wt % particulate inorganic filler;
e) between about 10 and about 30 wt % latex binder.
f) between about 3 and about 80 wt % calcium hydroxide; and