

Basic Detail Report

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Title

Woman's Aquablade Leg Suit

Date

c 1996

Primary Maker

Speedo International Ltd

Medium

Polyester elastane

Dimensions

Overall: 840 x 390 mm, 0.2 kg Clothing size: 14

Name

Swimsuit

History

Speedo's Aquablade range was launched in 1996 for the Atlanta Olympics. The Aquablade fabric features a stripe print created by an applied water repellent resin. The 'rough' and 'smooth' stripes produce different speeds of water flow across the suit. This hydrodynamic surface creates verticle spirals of water, which increase the water flow and keep it closer to the swimmer's body. The construction of the fabric also reduces the amount of water absorbed, making the suit lighter in the water and quicker to dry. By reducing the overall resistance of the suit in water, the fabric improves the swimmer's glide time. Independant testing on the fabric and silhouettes took place at the Institute for Hydrodynamics as Ruhr University, Germany. 46 tests on 11 swimwear fabrics concluded that the Aquablade had an 18% lower surface rsistance that the S2000, which was the Speedo suit produced for the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. The Aquabalde also had a 23% lower surface resistance than conventional nylon lycra swimwear fabric.