

NEWS RELEASE



FKM-USA, LLC.
19421 S. Forest Ave.
Glenwood, IL 60425
tel: 708.755-1490
fax: 708.755-1493
www.fkm-usa.com

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Contact Nancy Lesinski
French & Rogers
tel. 248.641.0044
fax. 248.641.1718
n.lesinski@french-rogers.com

For immediate release

FKM USA'S NEW VNP11a NON-WOVEN BLANK WASHER ROLLS ARE OPTIMIZED FOR HARSH ENVIRONMENTS

Glenwood, Ill., March 21, 2005 – FKM-USA, the North American roll division of FKM-Walzentechnik (Duisburg, Germany), announces the availability of its new VNP11a blank washer rolls, developed to address the requirements of low oil film control and de-oiling in severe-duty applications where elevated roll forces and irregular materials are being processed. Engineered for harsh environments requiring cut and abrasion-resistance, VNP11a rolls also offer excellent cleaning and wringing action.

The new FKM rolls are made of orange-colored VNP11, a Freudenberg non-woven cover material, composed of proprietary fibers and binder materials that come together to form a web. The VNP11a production process and type of binder in conjunction with the type, thickness and length of fibers result in a product that is optimized for wear resistance without sacrificing void. Due to the resilience of the fibers and the elastic characteristic of the binding system, the porous and open structure of the VNP11a material is able to be pressed to 94-shore-A while still maintaining a void that is four times greater than competitive products, resulting in longer life and better performance.

FKM-USA, LLC is a fabricator of industrial roll products, which exclusively use Freudenberg Vliesstoffe KG and Bayer-AG materials. FKM-USA rolls are configured for diverse automotive applications, such as support for tailor welded blank systems, wash rolls within

sheet metal blank washers, and tensioning rolls in steel mills and toll processors. FKM's product line includes non-woven roll covers, lightweight carbon fiber roll core technologies and patented rotary cast polyurethane rolls. To learn more visit www.fkm-usa.com

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CAPTION: FKM-USA's new VNP11a roll covers, designed for harsh environments, combine both cut and abrasion resistance with excellent cleaning and wringing action.