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[IE/IE]; Cummeenaplaw, Donoughmore, Co Cork (IE). HAZENBERG, Jan, Geert [IE/IE]; No. 2 Kenny's Well Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny (IE). BUCK, Dan [IE/IE]; Knockane, Annestown, Co. Waterford (IE). CLANCY, Paul [IE/IE]; 5, The Walk, Fairfield Park, Old Tramore Road, Waterford City (IE). USCHOLD, Robert, Charles [US/US]; 236 Pierce Street, Leominster, MA 01453 (US).

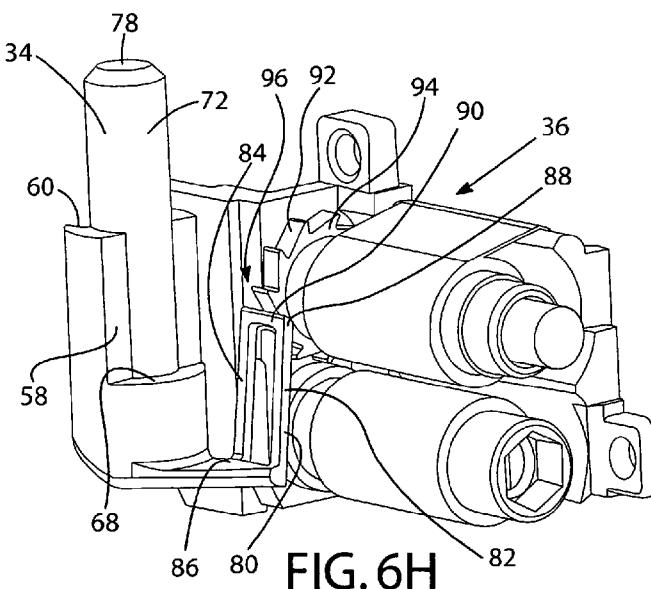
(74) Agent: COTTAM, David, William; Teva Europe Patent Department, 167 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2EA (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DOSE COUNTERS FOR INHALERS, INHALERS AND SHAFTS THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A manually operated measured dose inhaler (12) includes a dose counter chamber (66) including a dose display tape (112) driven by a ratchet wheel (94) which is driven in turn by an actuator pawl (80), actuated by movement of a canister (20); two-step ribs (144, 146) being provided to prevent rocking of the canister (20); a drain hole (194) being provided for preventing misting of a display window (118); and frictional surfaces (132, 134) being provided on a shaft (108) of a tape stock bobbin (110) to prevent tape slippage; a rotation regulator being provided for the stock bobbin and comprising a wavelike engagement surface (300) with concavities (302) which engage against control elements (128, 130) in the form of protrusions on resilient forks of a split pin (108) thereby permitting incremental unwinding of the stock bobbin yet resisting excessive rotation if the inhaler is dropped onto a hard surface.



MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,
SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

Published:

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

16 August 2012

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: **122-124**
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2011/002462

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61M15/00
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2008/119552 A1 (IVAX PHARMACEUTICALS IRELAND [IE]; FENLON DEREK [IE]) 9 October 2008 (2008-10-09) cited in the application pages 6-14; figures 5,6,9 claims 1,16 page 9, line 9 - line 31 page 14, line 14 - line 21	60-67
A	----- WO 2007/012861 A1 (CAMBRIDGE CONSULTANTS [GB]; KIVLIN ROBERT OWEN [GB]; LLOYD-LUCAS FRANC) 1 February 2007 (2007-02-01) paragraphs [0011] - [023,]; figures 3-8 -----	1-11, 21-27, 36-38, 47-59, 68-78
A	----- -/-	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* 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 application or patent 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 when the document is taken alone

"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

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
28 June 2012	04/07/2012
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Loughman, John

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/EP2011/002462

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2005/102430 A1 (INNOVATA BIOMED LTD [GB]; PARKES PHILIP CARL [GB]) 3 November 2005 (2005-11-03) pages 3-12; figures 1-5 -----	1-11
Y	WO 2008/023019 A2 (GLAXO GROUP LTD [GB]; ANDERSON GREGOR JOHN MCLENNAN [GB]; CROSBY GARY) 28 February 2008 (2008-02-28) page 32, lines 10-13 page 32, lines 3-18 pages 15,16,18 pages 31,32; figures 1-10,29a -----	28
A	US 5 482 030 A (KLEIN DAVID [US]) 9 January 1996 (1996-01-09) columns 12-14; figures 1-5 -----	1-11, 36-38, 73-78
X	US 2006/096594 A1 (BONNEY STANLEY G [GB] ET AL BONNEY STANLEY GEORGE [GB] ET AL) 11 May 2006 (2006-05-11)	12,13, 15,17,20
Y	paragraphs [0018] - [0097], [0118] - [0198]; figures 1,3,8,10-13,22,23	28,46
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A	paragraphs [0171] - [0179], [0271] - [0345]; figures 70-138 -----	25-27, 36-38
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International application No PCT/EP2011/002462

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11

actuator and incremental output member being configured to have predetermined canister fire and count configurations in a canister fire sequence.

2. claims: 12-20

inner wall canister support.

3. claims: 21-27

support shelf and recess.

4. claims: 28-35

heat staking.

5. claims: 36-38

perforated dose counter chamber.

6. claims: 39-46, 79-121

frictional engagement formations.

7. claims: 47-59

positioning indicia monitored with a sensor.

8. claims: 60-67

method of designing an incremental dose counter for an inhaler predicting its reliability.

9. claims: 68-72

method for production run of a series of inhalers and dose counters.

10. claims: 73-78

anti-back drive member.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 122-124

Claims 122-124 rely, in respect of the technical features of the invention, on references to the drawings (Rule 6 PCT).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.