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(54) **Device and method for packaging in a modified atmosphere**

(57) A device for the packaging in a modified atmosphere of a product (P) in a flexible and thermoweldable container comprises:
- insufflating means (5), fit to deliver a gas between two longitudinally folded edges of a thermoweldable material (M) in ribbon or film fit to form a flexible container, be-

tween which the product is placed;
- welding means (6) fit to weld and to seal at least a longitudinal border and a transversal portion of the edges of a thermoweldable material (M) obtaining a package made of this material (M) and containing the product (P) in a modified atmosphere, comprising the gas.

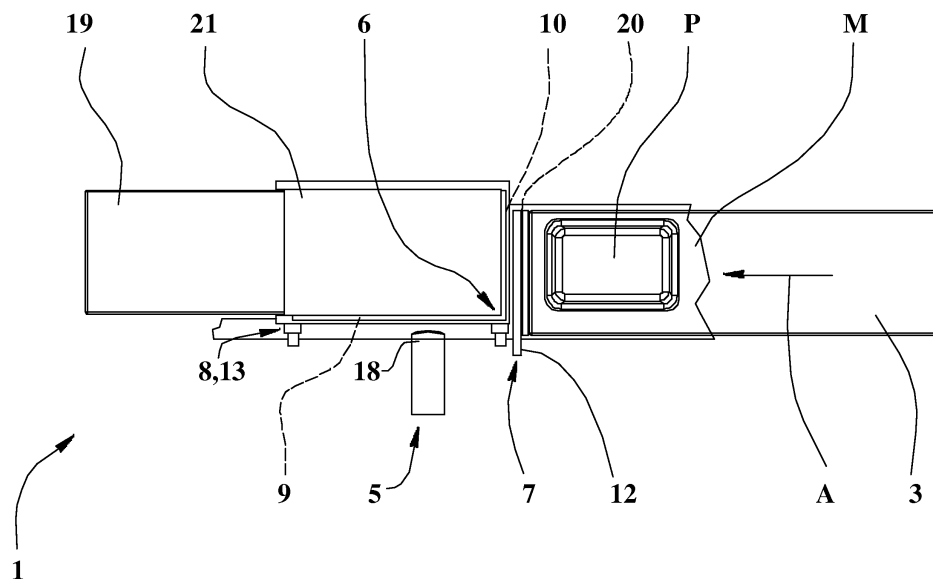


FIG.1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 12 2797

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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A		5-8	
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Y	US 5 282 349 A (SIEGEL MARTIN [US]) 1 February 1994 (1994-02-01) * column 6, lines 14-36 - column 9, lines 44-48; figure 6 *	11-15	
X	US 3 274 746 A (JAMES ROBERT C ET AL) 27 September 1966 (1966-09-27) * column 3, line 59 - column 5, line 16; figure 1 *	1,20,21	
A	FR 1 257 114 A (POLYVALENTE DES PLASTIQUES SOC) 31 March 1961 (1961-03-31) * the whole document *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 19 March 2008	Examiner Schelle, Joseph
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- 1-21
- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-21

Device for packaging a product in a modified atmosphere, according to claim 1, comprising inter alia upstream of the welding means first conveyor means to carry, towards a supplying direction, the product interposed between the two edges of the thermoweldable material up to the operating support of the device

2. claims: 1,22-24

Device for packaging a product in a modified atmosphere, according to claim 1, comprising pressing means associated to the welding means to elastically press at least an edge of the material adjacent to said welding means

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 12 2797

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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19-03-2008

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