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B65B 61/22 (2006.01) **B65D 75/32** (2006.01)
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CA, CH, 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, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- 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))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUSES AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING CONTAINERS

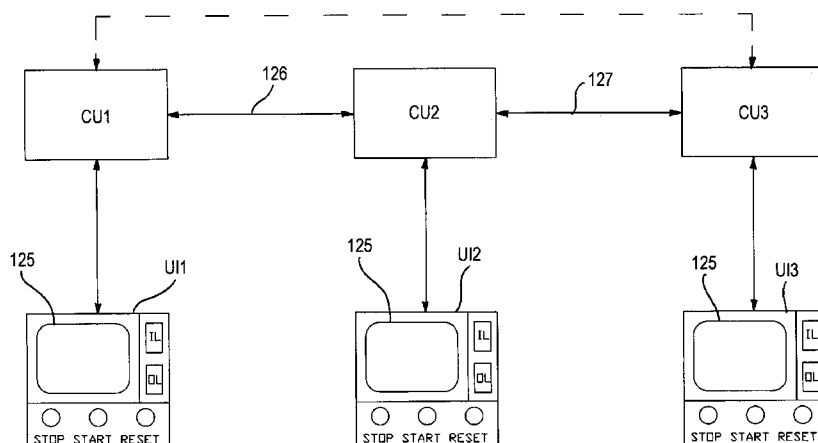


Fig. 20

(57) Abstract: An apparatus comprises an operating unit (31; 58; 131), which can be a welding unit (31; 131) for welding a closing film (22) to an edge zone (41) of a containing element (3) or a separating unit (58) for separating containing elements (42) from portions of sheet material (62), said apparatus (21; 61; 81; 161) comprising a control unit (CU2; CU3) programmed to enable said operating unit (31; 58; 131) to process selectively a continuous strip of containing elements (3; 42) or discrete groups (118) of containing elements (3; 42).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B65B7/16 B65B9/04 B65B61/04 B65B61/22 B29C65/08
B29C65/18 B26D5/20 B65B61/20
ADD. B65D75/32

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)

B29C B65B B26D B65D

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2004/106162 A (KOURTOGLOU SA [GR]; KOURTOGLOU DIMITRIS [GR]) 9 December 2004 (2004-12-09) figure 7 pages 18-27	1-73
A	EP 1 714 886 A (MULTIVAC HAGGENMUELLER GMBH [DE]) 25 October 2006 (2006-10-25) claim 3	1-73
X	US 6 662 531 B1 (SCHWAB DOMINIQUE [FR] ET AL) 16 December 2003 (2003-12-16) columns 3-6 figures 1,6	74-107
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☒ 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 document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2009/000386

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2001 354201 A (CKD CORP) 25 December 2001 (2001-12-25) figures 1,8 paragraphs [0055], [0056], [0069] -----	74-107
X	US 5 067 304 A (KUETHE DAVID F [US]) 26 November 1991 (1991-11-26) figures 1,2 column 2, line 64 - column 3, line 3 -----	108-131
X	EP 0 931 726 A (TINE NORSKE MEIERIER BA [NO]) 28 July 1999 (1999-07-28) paragraph [0003] -----	108-131
X	WO 2005/097601 A (IWK VERPACKUNGSTECHNIK GMBH [DE]; CHRIST RICHARD [DE]) 20 October 2005 (2005-10-20) figures 1-8 pages 9-13 -----	132-161

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2009/000386

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.:
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:
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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-73

process selectively a continuous strip of containing
elements or discrete groups of containing elements.

2. claims: 74-107

partly uncovered sheet material

3. claims: 108-131

removing means

4. claims: 132-161

collecting trays

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2009/000386

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