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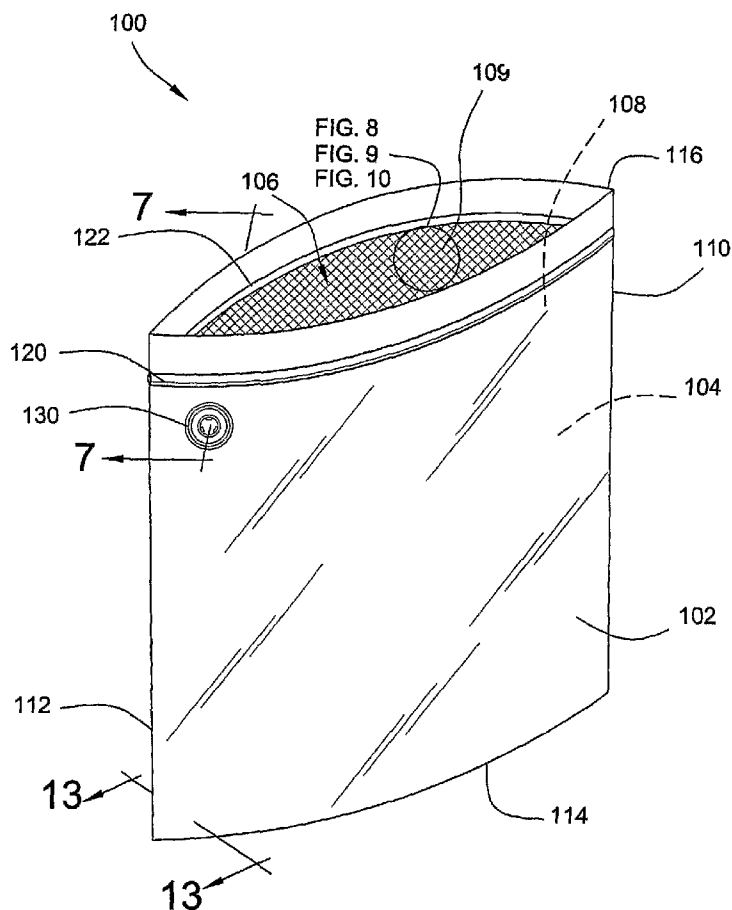
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FLEXIBLE STORAGE BAG



(57) Abstract: The flexible storage bag includes overlaying first and second sidewalls defining an internal volume that can be accessed from an open top edge. To evacuate air from the internal volume after the open top edge has been closed, the bag includes a one-way valve element attached to the first sidewall and communicating with the internal volume. To prevent the one-way valve element from becoming clogged by the opposing second sidewall, the bag also includes a clearance member that maintains at least a partial clearance between the first and second sidewalls proximate the valve element. The clearance member can take many forms such as a textured portion on the second sidewall that includes evacuation passages which provide air in the internal volume access to the valve element, a permeable element covering the valve element, and a rigid or compressible structure that spaces the second sidewall from the valve element.



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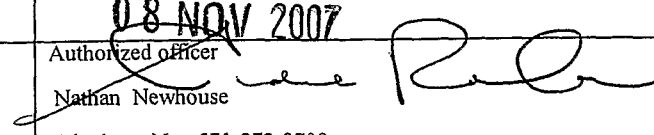
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: B65D 33/01 (2006.01) USPC: 383/103 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) U.S. : 383/103, 44, 100; 53/405 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)																				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																		
X --- Y	US 5,228,271 A (Wallace) 20 July 1993 (20.07.1993), see entire document.	18-19, 21-22, 35, 38-39 ----- 23, 41, 43, 45, 47																		
X --- Y	US 5,450,963 A (Carson) 19 September 1995 (19.09.1995), see entire document.	24-34 ----- 41, 44, 46																		
Y	US 6,059,457 A (Sprehe et al.) 9 May 2000 (09.05.2000), see entire document.	1-17, 23, 41-47																		
Y	US 2,778,171 (Taunton) 22 January 1957 (22.01.1957), see entire document.	1-17, 41-42, 44, 46																		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																				
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