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(54) **Expansion valve**

(57) The stroke of a valve element 8 of an expansion valve is set such that refrigerant flows at a flow rate 1.0 to 1.4 times the flow rate corresponding to the set tonnage. This means a limit of the valve lift to fully open state during start-up and prevents an unnecessary and excessive refrigerant flow and reduces flow noise of refrigerant during start-up and allows to save driving force for the compressor.

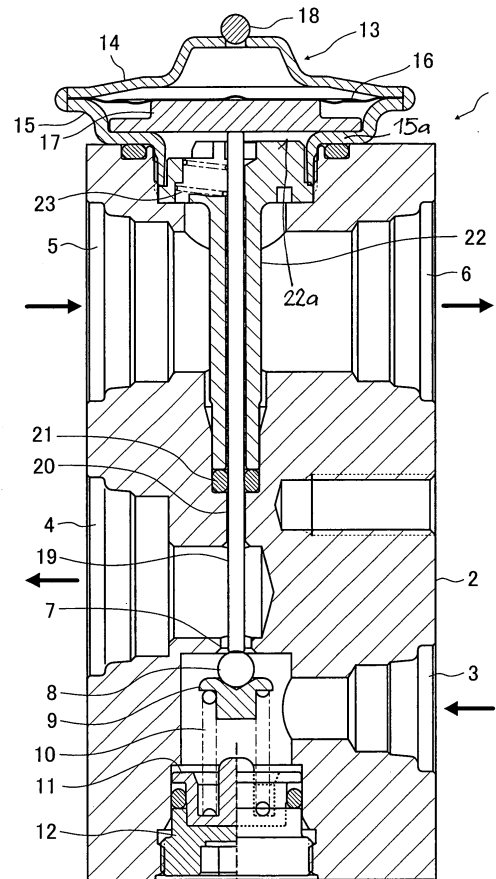


FIG. 1



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			F25B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 15 March 2005	Examiner Ritter, C
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	

2  
EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P/AC01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 03 01 5469

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 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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