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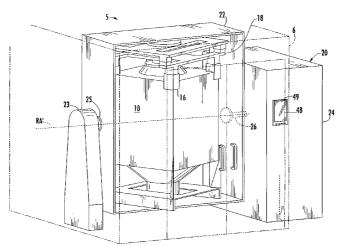
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### (54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ON-LINE HOMOGENEITY



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for detecting on-line the homogeneity and constituent concentration of pharmaceutical compositions comprising mixing means for mixing the compositions of matter; and spectroscopic means for detecting on-line the homogeneity and constituent concentration of the compositions of matter, the spectroscopic means including a plurality of spectroscopic detection means disposed on the mixing means for providing light to the compositions of matter and detecting emission light from the compositions of matter, first control means for providing the light to the plurality of spectroscopic detection means and analyzing the emission light from the plurality of spectroscopic detection means, and second control means in communication with the first control means and the plurality of spectroscopic detection means for controlling the transmission of the light from the first control means to the plurality of spectroscopic detection means and the emission light from the plurality of spectroscopic detection means to the first control means, the second control means including switch means for connecting a respective one of the plurality of spectroscopic detection means to the first control means.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter nal Application No PC1/US 01/26780

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N21/85 G01N21/25 B01F15/00 B01F9/04

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

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched} & \text{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ IPC & 7 & G01N & B01F \end{array}$ 

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, PAJ

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 03, 28 April 1995 (1995-04-28) -& JP 06 331542 A (MINAMIDE SYST ENG:KK), 2 December 1994 (1994-12-02) abstract	1-17, 20-30
Y	US 4 820 045 A (BOISDE GILBERT ET AL) 11 April 1989 (1989-04-11) column 2, line 58 -column 3, line 5 column 5, line 28 - line 31 column 5, line 48 - line 51	1-17, 20-30
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
<ul> <li>Special categories of cited documents:</li> <li>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>"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)</li> <li>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>'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</li> <li>'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</li> <li>'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.</li> <li>'&amp;' document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search  2 July 2002  Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Date of mailing of the international search report  10/07/2002  Authorized officer  Navas Montero, E

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