

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 February 2002 (21.02.2002)

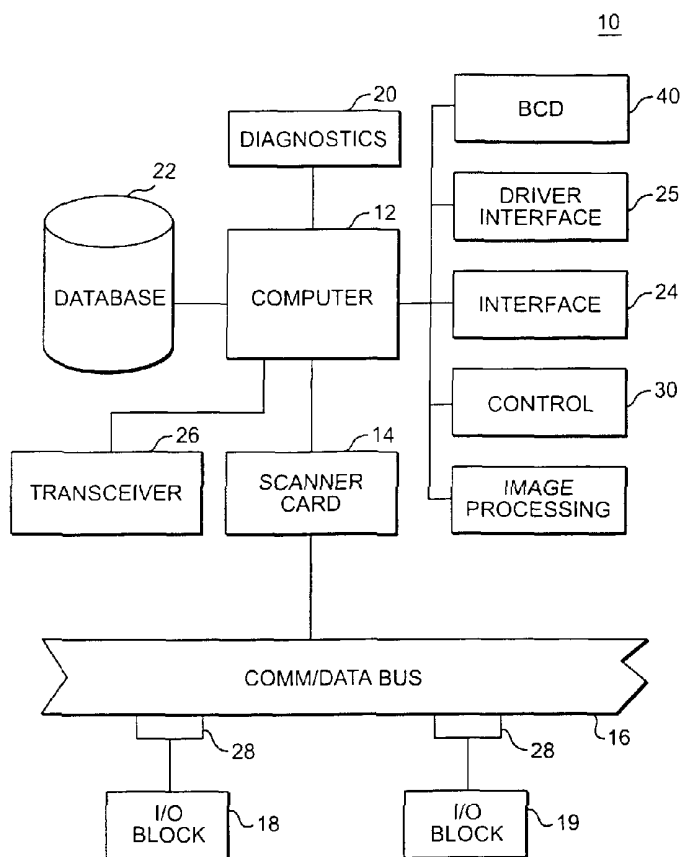
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/15151 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G08G 1/123
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- (21) International Application Number: PCT/CA01/00720
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- (22) International Filing Date: 18 May 2001 (18.05.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (74) Agent: RICHES, McKENZIE & HERBERT LLP; Suite 1800, 2 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3J5 (CA).
- (30) Priority Data:
60/225,736 17 August 2000 (17.08.2000) US
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:
US 60/225,736 (CON)
Filed on 17 August 2000 (17.08.2000)

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BUS DIAGNOSTIC AND CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A system and method allow for remote control of a bus or other vehicle and for collection of bus operating and diagnostic data collected from a bus onboard data collection and control system. The system allows for wireless communication between the bus and a local bus operating center. The bus operating center may include an Internet web site and an Internet server that receives the data from the bus. The data may be aggregated for several buses, or may be retained on an individual bus basis. The system and method provides for non-intrusive diagnosis of the bus or other vehicle. The system includes an onboard computer that contains vehicle operating and diagnosis programs. The computer may be interfaced locally at the bus, or remotely from another location. Parameter values of bus components may be displayed using human to machine interfaces. The interfaces may include virtual objects that represent actual bus components or that are used to display component parameters in a readily readable fashion.

WO 02/15151 A1



(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

Published:

— *with international search report*

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.

Bus Diagnostic and Control System and Method

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/225736, filed August 17, 2000.

Technical Field

The technical field relates to systems and methods used to monitor the status and control the operation of a motor vehicle.

Background

Most engine-powered vehicles use monitoring devices to detect the presence of various undesirable operating conditions, such as engine over heating, low oil pressure, and low fuel, and include indicators to warn the operator of such conditions. Not all of the various monitored parameters have the same importance. For example, an engine air filter or a hydraulic fluid filter may gradually clog during operation of the vehicle. The vehicle operator should be warned of such clogging, but generally there is no need to immediately remedy the situation, and the vehicle can be operated until for some time before servicing and maintenance. A low fuel condition requires more immediate attention from the operator. A loss of engine oil pressure or a loss of hydraulic fluid represent conditions which require immediate operator attention to prevent damaging the vehicle.

Current monitoring systems detect the undesirable conditions and signal the vehicle operator by means of dial indicators, indicator lamps, or audible means. The efficiency of these systems depends upon the operator's careful attention to all of the various indicators and upon his judgement as to which may call for immediate correction. As the complexity of a vehicle increases, the number of monitored parameters generally increases. Therefore, the operator is required to direct more attention to the increasing number of indicators, and less attention to operating the vehicle.

1 When considering single vehicles, current on-board monitoring systems, and current
2 diagnostic systems, focus on the parameters and test measurements of a single vehicle. No
3 system exists to allow monitoring of a fleet of vehicles from a single remote location. Further,
4 current systems do not allow trend analysis of a fleet of vehicles by aggregating trouble reports
5 or similar data, and do not provide real-time or near-real-time assistance to local operators and
6 repair technicians.

7 Current on-board monitoring systems also do not allow for real-time monitoring of on-
8 board parameters at one or more remote locations and do not allow for remote vehicle control.
9 For example, current monitoring systems do not provide a remote location with the ability to
10 shut off an operating vehicle's engine.

11 Another drawback of current on-board monitoring systems is the need to perform
12 partial or complete disassembly of components or systems to determine the nature and extent of
13 an abnormal condition. This disassembly may be costly in terms of time and replacement parts,
14 and may cause further damage to the vehicle.

15 **Summary**

16 A vehicle electrical and diagnostic system includes a communications bus installed in the
17 vehicle. Input/output (I/O) blocks are coupled to the communications bus. Also coupled to the
18 bus is an industrial computer. The computer drives the vehicle's operating program. The
19 computer also acts as an interface between the vehicle's systems and a human technician. The
20 I/O blocks receive data from sensors installed in various locations within the vehicle and
21 provide the data to the computer using the communications bus.

22 The computer may be used locally or remotely to diagnose the vehicle's components.
23 The operating program on the vehicle may also be used to remotely control the vehicle. In an
24 embodiment, one or more buses are coupled, using a wireless communications network to a
25 hub or local bus operating center. Such a center may be part of a metropolitan transit authority,
26 for example. As many as 256 or more such buses may be associated with each hub, and the

1 transit authority may use many hubs for its fleet of transit buses. The buses use the wireless
2 communications network to pass operating and diagnostic data in a real-time, near real-time
3 and delayed manner. The transmitted data may be collected and stored at an Internet web site
4 that may be associated with the hub. The data may then be accessed by a central support
5 system that also accesses the Internet web site. The accessed data may be used to help make
6 management, design and engineering decisions regarding the buses. For example, the central
7 support system can collect engine trend analysis data that may indicate premature wear of
8 engine piston rings. Using this data, the central support system can allocate more spare piston
9 rings to its supply center, and may review engine design to improve wear characteristics.

10 The hub or the central support center may also use received operating data to monitor
11 operation of one or more buses. The hub or the central support system may issue control
12 signals to control operation of one or more bus components or systems. For example, the
13 central support system may send control signals to open a switch in a bus engine control circuit
14 to cause the bus engine to shutdown. Technicians at the central control system may access
15 programming identical to that onboard the bus, and may, using a HMI, select a "switch" to
16 open. This operation then sends the control signal through the Internet web site and to the bus
17 onboard computer to cause the bus programming to initiate the switch open command.

18 The hub or central support center and the bus 100 may use a geo-satellite positioning
19 system (GPS) to maintain an accurate track of location of the bus. Using bus location
20 information, the hub may optimize bus routing, steering the bus around obstacles, and may
21 allocate other bus resources based on real-time routing and bus location information provided
22 by the GPS.

23 **Description of the Drawings**

24 The detailed description will refer to the following drawings wherein like numbers refer
25 to like elements, and wherein:

1 Figure 1 is an overall block diagram of a diagnostic and control system that may be
2 used with a bus or similar vehicle;

3 Figure 2 illustrates a node that may be used with the system of Figure 1;

4 Figure 3a is a block diagram of an environment that uses the system of Figure 1;

5 Figure 3b is a block diagram of a bus location device that may be used with the system
6 of Figure 1;

7 Figure 3c illustrates an operation of the systems and components of Figures 1 - 3b;

8 Figure 4 is a block diagram of an alternative environment that uses the system of Figure
9 1;

10 Figure 5 is a block diagram of yet another environment that uses the system of Figure 1;

11 Figures 6a and 6b illustrate examples of interfaces used with the system of Figure 1;

12 Figure 7 is a block diagram of a software system operating on the system of Figure 1;

13 Figure 8 is a block diagram of programming modules used to construct interfaces and
14 programming for use with the system of Figure 1;

15 Figures 9 - 30 illustrate graphical human to machine interfaces that may be used with
16 the system of Figure 1;

17 Figure 31 illustrates a human to machine interface displaying a virtual display device;
18 and

19 Figures 32a - 48 illustrate ladder programs used in the bus operating system of Figure
20 1.

21 Detailed Description

22 A vehicle diagnostic and control system provides for monitoring and maintenance of
23 systems on a bus, and for controlling the operation of the bus systems. Figure 1 is an overall
24 block diagram of a bus diagnostic and control system 10. The system 10 includes a computer
25 12, a scanner card 14 coupled to the computer 12, a data bus 16 coupled to the scanner card
26 14, and input/output nodes 18 coupled to the data bus 16. The computer 12 includes

1 programming to monitor the status of and to control a bus. The programming may include a
2 diagnostics program 20 and a control program 30. These programs will be described in more
3 detail later. The system 10 may include a local database 22 that stores data related to the bus.
4 The system 10 may also include a vehicle information center, or interface, 24 that may be used
5 by a technician to directly access data in the database 22 and to access the computer 12. The
6 system 10 may also include a driver interface 25 that may be used to present limited information
7 to the bus driver. The system 10 may include image processing functions that interact with a
8 bus-mounted television or video camera (see Figure 4).

9 The system 10 may be attached to other computers and may act as an interface to
10 vehicle components or subsystems such as diesel engine, transmission and anti-lock brake
11 subsystems. The system 10 integrates or centralizes diagnostics and controls of various vehicle
12 subsystems. The system 10 may include a receiver/transmitter (transceiver) 26 that may be
13 used to receive signals from a source external to the system 10 and to transmit information to
14 the source. Finally, the system 10 may include a bus location device (BLD) 40 that, used in
15 conjunction with a geo-satellite positioning system (GPS), generates precise bus location and
16 kinematic motion information. The use of the BLD 40 and a GPS will be described in detail
17 later.

18 In an embodiment, the system 10 is installed on, and is part of a bus, such as a
19 commuter bus used for urban transportation. The system 10 gathers information about various
20 bus systems, and either stores the information in the database 22, provides the information to a
21 remote location, or processes the information according to programming provided with the
22 computer 12. The results of the processing may be stored in the database 22, provided to the
23 remote location, or displayed on the interface 24.

24 As noted above, the driver interface 25 may also provide information from the system
25 10 to the driver. The information may be provided in real time. Such information may include
26 bus location information, such as that generated by a geo-satellite positioning system (GPS) that

1 may be incorporated into the system 10. For example, the interface 25 may show a map of the
2 area in the vicinity of the bus, including roads, bus routes, bus stops, and other information, and
3 may show a current position of the bus by moving a representation of the bus over a bus route.
4 The driver interface 25 may also incorporate a heads-up display feature that projects digital
5 images of various bus parameters and other data so that the bus driver may view the data
6 without distracting attention from driving.

7 The driver interface 25 may incorporate a speech recognition device to receive spoken
8 commands from the bus driver. The spoken commands may be used to override remote
9 control features of the bus, to request specific information relative to driving conditions, such as
10 roadway conditions, weather conditions, traffic conditions, or other information needed by the
11 bus driver for safe operation of the bus. Such information requests may be passed by the
12 system 10 to a remote location, and the information may then be provided by radio control
13 links, for example. The information may be displayed as text or graphical information on the
14 driver interface 25. For example, a location of a traffic jam astride a bus route may be
15 displayed by showing a map of the bus route with the location of the traffic jam superimposed.
16 The bus driver may then use the information to avoid the traffic jam, to apprise passengers of
17 potential delays, or to seek a way around the traffic jam.

18 While the system 10 is intended for use with a bus, the system 10 is not so limited. The
19 system 10 may be adapted for use with any type of motor vehicle, including commercial trucks,
20 and automobiles. The system 10 may also be adapted for use with other devices, including
21 boats and ships, airplanes, and trains, for example.

22 The computer 12 may be an industrial computer, such as a 6181 Industrial Computer.
23 The computer 12 is provided in an industrially hardened package to operate in the environment
24 of a moving vehicle in all weather conditions.

25 The data bus 16 is an open communication network that connects devices such as
26 photoelectric sensors, inductive proximity sensors, motor starters, drives, valve manifolds, and

1 simple operator interfaces, or nodes having attached devices, together without the need for a
2 separate I/O system. Devices may be removed and replaced from the network (the data bus
3 16) while the data bus 16 is under power without a separate programming tool. The data bus
4 16 may be a flat cable or a round cable capable of providing both power and communication to
5 the nodes 18. The data bus 16 includes passive multiport taps 28, which may connect using a
6 drop cable. The taps 28 may include 4 or 8 micro quick-disconnect ports in sealed versions to
7 connect up to 8 physical devices or logical nodes.

8 The scanner card 14 allows the computer 12 to scan the data bus 16 in order to obtain
9 status information related to various bus system components. The scanned information may
10 then be stored in the database 22, and may be sent to an external location on a real-time or
11 periodic basis, or when polled by the external location. For example, the database 22 may
12 store the most recent hours worth of operating data for the bus, and the computer 12 may then
13 provide all or part of the saved data to the external location. The data may be provided to the
14 external location periodically, such as once per hour, or upon request for the stored data.

15 Alternatively, the data may be sent to the external location at the time of its collection by the
16 scanner card 14.

17 The transceiver 26 may incorporate a wireless communications device, such as a
18 wireless modem, for example. The transceiver 26 may communicate over a wireless telephone
19 network, such as a cellular telephone network, for example. The transceiver 26 may also be
20 used to communicate with an Internet web site, and information related to the bus may
21 subsequently be stored in a database accessible through the Internet web site.

22 Figure 2 illustrates an example of a node 18 used with the system 10 of Figure 1. The
23 node 18 may include a semi-sealed housing that is capable of operating in close proximity to the
24 sensor environment. The illustrated node 18 is a 10 amp 8X8 block that uses low voltage dc
25 power and provides for 8 inputs and 8 outputs. Other configurations for the node 18 are also
26 possible. The node 18 may be specifically designed for each application. That is, the node 18

1 may be adapted to a specific model or make of a bus, or other vehicle, or may be adapted for
2 a specific use of a bus or other vehicle. Differences in specifications may include variations in
3 input and output current and voltage, status light configurations, remote monitoring features, and
4 number of attached devices, for example.

5 The system 10 may be used to transmit information to, and receive information from a
6 location external to the bus in which the system 10 is installed. Figure 3a is a block diagram of
7 an environment in which a bus 100, traveling over road 102, with the system 10 installed,
8 communicates with a remote location 110. The remote location 110 may be affiliated with or
9 be a part of a local transit authority, and the bus 100 may be one of a fleet of busses operated
10 by the local transit authority. The remote location 110 may in turn communicate with a service
11 center 120. The service center 120 could be affiliated with, or be part of a facility that
12 manufactures buses such as the bus 100. As shown in Figure 3a, the system 10 installed on the
13 bus 100 communicates with the remote location 110 using a wireless voice/data network 130.
14 The network 130 may be a cellular telephone network, a satellite communications network,
15 including communications satellite 132, or other wireless network. The method of
16 communication may involve Internet Protocols (IP), or other protocols for transmitting voice
17 and/or data. The network 130 may also allow for direct, wired connection between the system
18 10 and the remote location. In this alternative configuration, the bus 100 may be driven to the
19 remote location 110 and the system 10 may be wired into a diagnostics computer at the remote
20 location 110.

21 The remote location 110 communicates with the service center 120 using a
22 communications network 140. The communications network 140 may be a landline network,
23 such as a public switched telephone network (PSTN), for example. The communications
24 network 140 may also be a wireless network, or any other network capable of communicating
25 voice and/or data.

1 Also included in the environment shown in Figure 3a is a GPS that employs GPS
2 satellite 114. Although one GPS satellite is shown, the GPS should be understood to use a
3 standard number of such satellites, which is typically four satellites. The GPS is shown
4 augmented with a GPS ground station 112 to provide centimeter location accuracy, and to
5 derive bus attitude and position coordinates and bus kinematic tracking information. The GPS
6 ground station 112 communicates with buses on designated roadways (e.g., the bus 100
7 traveling on a road 102) using a communications network (or radio control link) 115 for the
8 purpose of receiving bus location and bus trajectory information and broadcasting control
9 information to respective buses. The BLD 40, onboard the bus 100, may use the GPS
10 integrated with bus video scanning, radar/lidar, and onboard speedometer and/or
11 accelerometers to provide accurate bus location information. The bus location information may
12 be combined with information concerning road conditions and other obstacles to ensure
13 optimum bus routing.

14 As shown in Figure 3a, the GPS satellites 114 transmits GPS ranging signals 113 to the
15 bus 100 on the road 102. The GPS ranging signals 113 are modulated with pseudo-random
16 ranging codes that permit precise determination of the distance from individual GPS satellites
17 114 to the bus 100. The distance calculations are based on accurately measured time delays
18 encountered by the GPS ranging signals 113 transmitted from individual GPS satellites 114 to
19 the bus 100. GPS makes use of very accurate atomic clocks and precisely known earth orbits
20 for individual GPS satellites 114 to make such precise position calculations. A multi-channel
21 GPS receiver may be used in the bus 100 to simultaneously track and determine ranges from
22 multiple GPS satellites 114 to enhance real-time location calculation times.

23 The accuracy and response time performance of the real-time GPS system (i.e., the
24 BLD 40) may degrade as the GPS ranging signals 113 encounter ionospheric and atmospheric
25 propagation delays while traveling from the GPS satellite 114 to the bus 100. These delays
26 give rise to uncertainties in the exact position of the bus 100 when calculated using time-based

1 triangulation methods. That is, because the propagation times from the GPS satellite 114 may
2 vary depending on ionospheric and atmospheric conditions, the calculated range to individual
3 GPS satellites 114 is only known within certain tolerance ranges. Clock uncertainties likewise
4 give rise to errors. Consequently, some uncertainty exists in the position information derived
5 using the GPS satellite ranging signals 113.

6 Differential GPS (DGPS) may be used to remove errors caused by uncertainties in
7 propagation times in GPS ranging calculations. Differential GPS makes use of auxiliary ranging
8 information from a stationary GPS receiver, the position of which is very precisely known. The
9 use of differential GPS is illustrated in Figure 3a, in which the GPS ground station 112
10 represents the stationary GPS receiver. The GPS ground station 112 receives the GPS ranging
11 signals 113 from the GPS satellite 114. The GPS ground station 112 is connected through
12 control links to the remote location 110 where precise GPS ground station location information
13 is computed and stored. Because the GPS ground station 112 is stationary, very accurate
14 location information can be determined.

15 GPS receivers use two PRN codes, the C/A and P codes to determine unambiguous
16 range to each satellite. These codes are transmitted with "chip" rates of 1.203 MHZ and 10.23
17 MHZ respectively, resulting in wavelengths of about 300 meters and 30 meters, respectively.
18 Hence the location resolution using these codes alone may be insufficient for a real-time bus
19 tracking. GPS satellites transmit on two frequencies, L1 (1575.42 MHZ) and L2 (1227.6
20 MHZ). The corresponding carrier wavelengths are 19 and 24 centimeters. In known
21 techniques of range measurement, the phase of these signals is detected, permitting range
22 measurements with centimeter accuracy. Various techniques are known to resolve these
23 ambiguities in real time for kinematic positioning calculations. Using known methods, the GPS
24 ground station 112 may be used both to transmit auxiliary ranging codes 116 to the bus 100
25 using the radio control link 115 and to assist in carrier phase ambiguity resolution to permit
26 precise bus tracking data.

1 The environment shown in Figure 3a is configured so that buses, such as the bus 100,
2 are in separate radio contact with the GPS ground station 112, and receive the auxiliary ranging
3 codes 116. The GPS ground station 112 and the bus 100 are in the same general location.
4 The GPS ground station 112 might be positioned, for example, to cover the principal highway,
5 such as the road 102, used by the bus 100. Alternatively, the GPS ground station 112 may be
6 located to serve an entire metropolitan area with buses in the metropolitan area communicating
7 with the GPS ground station 112 using the radio control links 115. The GPS ground station
8 112 receives the same GPS ranging signals 113 from the GPS satellites 114 that are received
9 by the bus 100. Based on the calculated propagation delay at a given instant for the GPS
10 ranging signals 113, the remote location 110 may compute the predicted position of the GPS
11 ground station 112 using a known GPS code and carrier ranging and triangular calculation
12 methods. Because the remote location 110 has the true and accurate location of the GPS
13 ground station 112, the remote location 110 may very precisely determine propagation delays
14 caused by ionospheric and atmospheric anomalies encountered by the GPS ranging signals
15 113.

16 Because the GPS ground station 112 is in the same general vicinity as the bus 100, the
17 GPS ranging signals 113 that are received at the bus 100 should encounter the same
18 propagation delays as the GPS ranging signals 113 that are received at the GPS ground station
19 112. Then, the instantaneous propagation delay information (the auxiliary ranging codes 116)
20 may be communicated by the radio control links 115 to the bus 100, enabling the BLD 40 in
21 the bus 100 to correct ranging calculations based on received GPS radio signals 113. This
22 correction eliminates position information uncertainty at the bus 100. Using DGPS and carrier
23 phase ranging, very accurate location information can be derived for the bus 100 and
24 propagation correction information can be broadcast on the radio control link 115 using, for
25 example, a signal of known frequency that may be monitored by all buses, such as the bus 100,
26 in the vicinity of the GPS ground station 112.

1 The radio control link 115 from the GPS ground station 112 may also be used to
2 command processing equipment in the bus 100 to use particular GPS ranging calculation
3 methods. The radio control link 115 connecting the bus 100 to the GPS ground station 112
4 may be a full-duplex communication link that permits bi-directional communication between the
5 GPS ground station 112 and the bus 100. Using the radio control link 115, status information
6 may be transmitted from the GPS ground station 112 to the bus 100 and from the bus 100
7 back to the GPS ground station 112. Each bus may transmit a unique identification code to the
8 GPS ground station 112. For example, each bus 100 in the vicinity of the GPS ground station
9 112 may transmit precise location, velocity and acceleration vectors to the remote location 110
10 using the GPS ground station 112. To facilitate optimum routing of the bus 100, and for other
11 control and monitoring purposes, the remote location 110 may store in a database 118,
12 locations of known obstacles, such as traffic jams, special events, road construction, and
13 accidents that could impede the travel of the bus 100. This obstacle information, combined
14 with real-time bus location information, can be used by the remote location to send alternate
15 route information to the bus 100. Such real-time bus routing can be used to keep the bus 100
16 on schedule and allow the bus 100 to still make all its required stops.

17 The bus 100 may compute its own precise attitude, with respect to X, Y, and Z
18 reference planes using conventional technology. The attitude of the bus 100 on the road 102
19 may be detected by using multiple GPS antennae mounted on the extremities of the bus 100
20 and then comparing carrier phase differences of GPS signals 113 simultaneously received at the
21 bus 100 using conventional technology. Relative to a desired path of travel or relative to true or
22 magnetic north, the precise deviation of the longitudinal or transverse axis of the bus 100 may
23 be precisely measured along with the acceleration forces about these axis. These inputs may be
24 sent to the computer 12 (see Figure 1) or a specialized GPS processor, where the inputs are
25 analyzed and evaluated along with a multitude of other inputs to provide tracking and control of
26 the bus 100. Using this system, operators at the remote location 110 may recognize whether

1 the bus 100 is stationary, moving along its intended path on the road 102, skidding or spinning,
2 for example, and what corrective action is needed to counteract whatever unusual attitude the
3 bus 100 may need to regain control.

4 Communication between the bus 100 and the GPS ground station 112 may be
5 implemented using multiple access communication methods including frequency division multiple
6 access (FDMA), timed division multiple access (TDMA), or code division multiple access
7 (CDMA) in a manner to permit simultaneous communication with and between a multiplicity of
8 buses, and, at the same time, conserve available frequency spectrum for such communications.
9 Broadcast signals from individual buses 100 to the GPS ground station 112 permits
10 simultaneous communication with and between a multiplicity of buses 100 using such radio
11 signals.

12 In an embodiment, the BLD 40 may include a GPS receiver, a GPS transceiver,
13 radar/lidar, and other scanning subsystems in a single, low cost, very large scale integrated
14 (VLSI) circuit. The same is also true of other sub-systems used on the bus 100, including the
15 computer 12.

16 As illustrated in Figure 3b, the BLD 40 may be implemented using control circuit 33 to
17 interconnect and route various signals between and among the illustrated subsystems. These
18 components may be in addition to, or take the place of components shown in Figure 1. A GPS
19 receiver 32 is used to receive GPS radio signals 113. A GPS transceiver 34 is used to transmit
20 and receive over the radio control link 115 between the bus 100 and the GPS ground station
21 112. The transceiver 26 receives and transmits auxiliary control signals and messages from
22 multiple sources including other buses. The GPS receiver 32, the GPS transceiver 34, and the
23 transceiver 26 include necessary modems and signal processing circuitry to interface with the
24 control circuit 33. As described above, the GPS transceiver 34, as well as the transceiver 26,
25 may be implemented using frequency division, time division or code division multiple access
26 techniques and methods as appropriate for simultaneous communication between and among

1 multiple buses and GPS ground stations. In an alternate embodiment, not shown, the GPS
2 transceiver 34 also may be a cellular radio linked to the communications satellite 132 using
3 conventional technology. Additionally, the bus 100 may have several GPS receivers 32
4 positioned on the extremities of the bus 100 for use in determining bus attitude relative to a
5 reference plane and direction using conventional phase comparison technology.

6 In addition to, or as part of the computer 12 of Figure 1, a GPS ranging computer 36
7 receives GPS signals from the GPS receiver 32 to compute bus attitude and position, and
8 velocity and acceleration vectors for the bus 100. The GPS ranging signals 113 are received
9 from multiple GPS satellites 114 by the GPS receiver 32 for processing by the GPS ranging
10 computer 36. The GPS transceiver 34 receives GPS correction signals from the GPS ground
11 station 112 to implement differential GPS calculations using the GPS ranging computer 36.
12 Such differential calculations involve removal of uncertainty in propagation delays encountered
13 by the GPS ranging signals 113.

14 Figure 3c illustrates an operation of the systems and components of Figures 1 - 3b.
15 The bus 100 may be part of a metropolitan transit system that provides daily commuter bus
16 service. On a given day, the bus 100 departs from a remote location (e.g., a local hub 150)
17 and travels over a route 142, making three stops at bus stops 143 to pick up and let off
18 passengers. The bus 100 is scheduled to complete the route 142 in a specific time that includes
19 a wait at each of the bus stops 143. Intersecting the route 142 are two-way streets 144 and
20 146. Also shown on the route 142 is an obstacle 147 that completely blocks access over the
21 route 142. The obstacle 147 may be road construction on the route 142, a traffic accident that
22 occurred shortly after departure of the bus 100 from the hub 150, or any other impediment to
23 travel of the bus 100.

24 The bus 100 is equipped with the BLD 40 that permits GPS ranging to determine the
25 bus location in real time, and to provide the real-time bus location information to the hub 150.
26 The bus 100 and the hub 150 may also employ DGPS to enhance bus location accuracy.

1 Because the obstacle 147 blocks the route 142, the bus 100 must be rerouted. The hub 150
2 receives obstacle information, and stores the information in the database 118. Using fuzzy logic
3 or similar techniques, processors 37 at the hub 150 may determine that the bus 100 cannot
4 complete its normal travel plan for that time and day. The processors 37 may then determine
5 that the bus 100 must reroute along the streets 144 and 146. The reroute information may be
6 passed to the bus 100 using the radio control link 115, or other communications network
7 (Figure 3a). The reroute information may be displayed on the bus as a representation on a
8 GPS-based map that highlights the new route, shows the location of the obstacle, and either
9 computes a required speed to remain on schedule, or provides an indication of the expected
10 delay in reaching all the stops 143 based on the reroute plan. The reroute information may be
11 shown on the driver interface 25 (Figure 1).

12 Using bus location information provided by the bus 100 to the hub 150, the processors
13 37 at the hub 150 may determine that the bus 100 will not complete the route 142 in time to
14 allow the bus 100 to travel over its next scheduled route. This determination may be based on
15 computing remaining travel time using nominal bus speed over the route 143, the length of the
16 route 142, and nominal stop times at the bus stops 143. The processors 37 may receive a
17 continuous, or near-continuous stream of bus position information from the bus 100. This bus
18 location information allows the processors 37 to continually update the expected route
19 completion time for the bus 100 over the route 142. Using this information, the processors 37
20 may provide an alert to operators at the hub 150 that indicates that another bus should be
21 called out of standby to cover for the bus 100.

22 Using the GPS system, the hub 150 may determine other conditions of the bus 100.
23 For example, the processors may monitor a length of time the bus 100 remains in a stationary
24 condition while on the route 142. The processors may determine the stationary condition of the
25 bus 100 based on GPS ranging that shows the bus 100 is in a same position over time. The
26 stationary condition may also be determined based on signals sent to the hub 150 from the bus

1 100 that report the output of certain sensors, such as a speedometer, accelerometers, and other
2 instruments. The bus 100 may be stationary because of traffic lights along the route 142, while
3 picking up and off loading passengers, or because of a traffic jam, for example. A lengthy
4 stationary period may indicate that the bus 100 has encountered a mechanical or electrical fault,
5 has been involved in an accident, or that something has happened to the bus driver. The
6 processors at the hub 150 may be programmed to monitor bus stationary periods and to
7 provide an alert if a specified maximum time is exceeded.

8 A television camera having a wide angle lens may be mounted at the front of the bus
9 such as the front end of the roof or bumper to scan the road ahead of the bus at an angle
10 encompassing the sides of the road and intersecting roads. The analog signal output of camera
11 is digitized in an A/D convertor and passed directly to and through a video preprocessor and to
12 the control circuit 33 to an image field analyzing computer may be implemented as part of the
13 computer 12 and may be programmed using neural networks and artificial intelligence as well as
14 fuzzy logic algorithms to identify objects on the road ahead such as other vehicles, pedestrians,
15 barriers and dividers, turns in the road, and signs and symbols, and generate identification
16 codes, and detect distances from such objects by their size (and shape) and provide codes
17 indicating same for use by a decision control computer, which may be incorporated as an
18 element of the computer 12 shown in Figure 1. The decision control computer generates coded
19 control signals that are applied through the control circuit 33 or are directly passed to various
20 warning and bus operating devices such as a braking servo, a steering servo or drive(s), and
21 accelerator servo; a synthetic speech signal generator, which sends trains of indicating and
22 warning digital speech signals to a digital-analog converter connected to a speaker driver; a
23 display that may be a heads-up display or part of the driver interface 25 (Figure 1); a head light
24 controller for flashing the head lights, a warning light control for flashing external and/or internal
25 warning lights; and a horn control.

1 The image field analyzing computer may use images provided by the above described
2 television camera along with high speed image processing to detect various hazards in dynamic
3 image fields with changing scenes, moving objects and multiple objects, more than one of which
4 may be a potential hazard. Wide angle vision and the ability to analyze both right and left side
5 image fields and image fields behind the bus may also be used. The imaging system may
6 detects hazards, and may also estimate distances based on image data for input to the decision
7 control computer.

8 Figure 4 is a block diagram of an alternate environment for communicating with the bus
9 100. The local hub 150 receives wireless communications from the bus 100 and transmits
10 wireless communications to the bus 100. The local hub 150 may communicate with a number
11 of buses, including the bus 100. The local hub 150 may communicate with a large number of
12 buses. For example, the hub 150 may communicate with as many as 256 or more buses.
13 Additional local hubs may be included in the environment to increase the number of buses to be
14 controlled. For example, in a large urban transit system, one or more local hubs may be
15 established at each local transit authority bus center. Each such bus center may be responsible
16 for dispatching, operating and maintaining hundreds of commuter buses, or more.

17 Local hubs, such as the local hub 150, may communicate with a central service center
18 154, which may be established for the urban transit system. Communications between the local
19 hubs and the central service center 154 may be by a wired communications network, such as
20 the PSTN. The local hubs may also communicate directly with a remote service center, such as
21 a service center 156 established at the bus manufacturer's facility, for example.

22 Using either of the environments shown in Figures 3a or 4, a remote location may
23 communicate with a bus control system, such as the system 10 shown in Figure 1, to access
24 data stored in a database on a bus, and to send data to the bus control system. For example,
25 the remote location may access the database 22 to determine operating conditions of the bus
26 engine, transmission and brake system, status of the bus lighting system, position of doors,

1 destination of the bus, bus speed, and other bus data. The data thus obtained may be used for
2 remote diagnostics and troubleshooting, including determining what parts and/or tools may be
3 needed to repair a bus. The environments may also be used to determine the geographical
4 location (latitude and longitude, for example) of the bus. Such bus location information may be
5 provided by incorporation of a GPS system, such as the BLD 40 shown in Figure 3b, in the
6 system 10. The remote location may also communicate with the bus to control specific bus
7 functions. For example, the remote location may shut down the bus engine, change the
8 indicated destination, close a door, or turn on the bus headlights. The remote location may also
9 update the software used by the computer 12 by sending a revised program over the
10 communications network.

11 In addition to remote access of the bus data, the system 10 (see Figure 1) allows a
12 local technician to interface on-site with the computer 12 and the database 22. In particular,
13 the technician may use the system 10 to perform complex diagnostics of devices or components
14 connected to the data bus 16. Using a wired or wireless interface to the computer 12, the
15 technician may obtain current or recorded data relating to bus operations. For example, the
16 technician may access the database 22 to determine engine oil pressure over the previous hour.
17 The technician may then use this information to determine a trend in the operation of the engine.
18 Thus, the system 10 may be used for both preventive and corrective maintenance.

19 Figure 5 illustrates yet another environment 160 that may use the bus system of Figure
20 1. The environment 160 includes a manufacturer's facility 161 that manufactures vehicles, such
21 as transits buses. The facility 161 includes a customer service support department and an
22 engineering department. The customer support department may include access to technical
23 advice, repair parts and documentation. The engineering department may receive information
24 from local bus operators, trend information regarding performance of the buses, and bus
25 operating data. The engineering department may use these data to make design changes, and
26 to assist the customer service department.

1 Using a communications network 162, the facility 161 may be coupled to one or more
2 Internet web sites that are associated with local bus operating centers, or hubs. The web sites
3 may employ standard Internet file servers to store and manipulate data. The local bus operating
4 centers may be located anywhere in the world. In Figure 5, three local bus operating centers,
5 namely the centers 176, 186 and 196 are shown. The three centers may be part of a single
6 transit system, and may be located within one metropolitan area. Alternatively, the local bus
7 operating centers may be located in different metropolitan areas. In the example shown, the
8 local bus operating center 176 includes two groups of buses. Group A 173 includes buses 0-
9 251 and Group B 175 includes buses 252-514. However, the local bus operating center may
10 operate more than two groups of buses. Individual buses in the groups 173 and 175 provide
11 information to, and may receive information from a web site 170 that is run by, or for, the
12 benefit of the bus operating center 176. Other local bus operating centers, such as the local
13 bus operating centers 186 and 196, may operate one or more groups of buses, with each group
14 of buses directly controlled by and reporting to local bus operating centers.

15 Communication between the individual buses and the local bus operating centers may
16 be primarily by wireless means, such as cellular communications means. The buses may also
17 communicate with the local bus operating centers by wired means when the buses arrive at the
18 local bus operating centers and can be directly coupled to the local bus operating centers. The
19 information provided by the buses may be gathered at the local bus operating centers, and then
20 immediately, or periodically posted to the associated web sites. From the web sites, the bus
21 information may be transmitted to the facility 161.

22 In operation, the system shown in Figure 5 may require that individual buses provide
23 real-time, near real-time and historical data to the center 161. Real-time data may include
24 readouts from monitors installed on the buses. Examples of such monitored parameters include
25 bus speed, position of entry and exit doors, application of parking brake. Near real-time
26 information may include an amount of time (i.e., the elapsed time) the entry or exit doors are

1 open, bus speed averaged over some interval, and other information that is delayed in
2 transmission. Historical data may include a summary of engine oil pressure during operating
3 time for a specific period, such as a day, for example.

4 Real-time and near real-time data may be supplied using wireless communications
5 means, where the data are measured and collected on a bus, transmitted to a local center, such
6 as the center 176, processed and transmitted to a web site such as the web site 170, and
7 transmitted to the center 161. In this embodiment, the bus maintains constant or near constant
8 communication with its local bus operating center. The data to be sent to the local bus
9 operating center 176 may be transmitted continuously using techniques well known in the art.
10 Alternatively, the local bus operating center 176 may periodically poll buses assigned to the
11 local bus operating center 176 to retrieve data from the buses.

12 Historical data, such as a days worth of engine oil pressure readings (taken for example
13 as average engine oil pressure, or oil pressure readings taken at intervals) may be transmitted to
14 the web site 170 when the bus returns to the local bus operating center. Such historical data
15 may be provided by direct wired connection between the bus and processors at the web site.
16 Alternatively, the historical data may be provided using wireless means.

17 The system 160 may also be used to control operation of one or more buses. A
18 technician or operator at either a local bus operating center, such as the center 176, or at the
19 customer support center 161, may access a bus operating program, such as the bus control
20 program 30 (see Figure 1). The same technician can access bus operating data on a real-time
21 or near real-time basis. Using the program 30, the technician may order send an engine STOP
22 command to the bus 100 that causes a electrical switch in the engine run control system to
23 open. Referring to Figure 33a, for example, the technician can select a FRONT SELECTED
24 FRT_SEL switch 939 (address N11:2) and, by clicking on with a pointing devices, such as a
25 mouse, cause the switch 939 to open, which causes an ENGINE IGNITION
26 ENG_ECU_IGN interlock 940 to open, stopping the engine of the bus 100. Such an

1 operation might be warranted in an emergency such as a driver who has suffered a heart attack,
2 for example. Access to other portions of the bus programming allows remotely located
3 technicians to start, stop, or otherwise operate other components and systems on the bus 100.

4 In another embodiment, the system 160 may include multiple local bus operating
5 centers or hubs that collect information from buses and that send control signals to the buses,
6 and which in turn provide the collected information to, and receive control signals from and
7 intermediate station between the hub and the customer support center 161. In yet another
8 embodiment, the customer support center 161 may incorporate a central Internet web site,
9 and each of the local operating bus centers may provide information to the central Internet web
10 site. In still another embodiment, the buses may provide some or all of their collected data
11 directly to the central Internet web site, and may receive control signals directly from the
12 customer control center. Such direct communication with the customer control center may be
13 by wireless means including cellular and PCS communications systems.

14 Figures 6a and 6b illustrate examples of the interface 24 (see Figure 1) that may be
15 used by a local technician to interact with the system 10 of Figure 1. In Figure 6a, the interface
16 24 includes a panel 200, which in turn includes a display portion 202 and a user input portion
17 204. The display portion 202 may be a liquid crystal display, for example. Alternatively, the
18 display portion 202 may be any flat panel display or may be a CRT display. The user input
19 portion 204 is shown as an alpha-numeric keyboard. Alternatively, the user input portion 204
20 may include a voice recognition module and one or more pointing devices such as a mouse, a
21 touch pad, or a track ball. The display portion 202 and the user input portion 204 may also
22 incorporate a touch sensitive screen. In Figure 6a, the display portion 202 is shown with a
23 graphical user interface (GUI) (or human to machine interface (HMI)) 206. The HMI 206
24 shows various views of a bus, such as the bus 100, and data related to the bus. The HMI 206
25 also incorporates interactive features and links to other data related to the bus.

1 Figure 6b illustrates an HMI 208 displayed on the display portion 202. The HMI 208
2 shows database addresses, status, and descriptions of specific components of a sub-system of
3 a bus.

4 The interface 24 shown in Figures 6a and 6b may be hardwired into the system 10, and
5 the associated hardware devices, including the display portion 202 may be contained in a semi-
6 permanent fashion in a housing that is built into the bus 100. Alternatively, the interface 24 may
7 include a portable interfaces, such as a lap top computer, a personal data assistant (PDA), or a
8 similar device. In this alternative embodiment, the interface 24 may communicate with the
9 computer 12 by wired or wireless means. For example, the interface 24 may include a PDA
10 that receives and transmits data between the computer 12 and the interface 24 using radio
11 frequency signaling. When the interface 24 is portable, such interface may be installed in the
12 bus 100, or may be brought to the bus 100 when on-site checks of the system 10 are desired.

13 Figure 7 is a block diagram of a control software system 220 used to operate and
14 diagnose the system 10 of Figure 1. The software system 220 may be loaded on the computer
15 10, and periodically may be updated, either by on-site loading of revised software, or by
16 transmission of programming changes using, for example, the communications networks 140
17 and 152 of Figure 4. The software system 220 may include the diagnostics module 20 control
18 module 30 shown in Figure 1. The systems diagnostic module 20 may include separate
19 diagnostics packages for the bus engine, transmission, anti-lock brake system (ABS), and
20 electrical system. The system diagnostics module 20 may also include access to historical data
21 stored in the database 22. The controller module 30 may include the software engine that
22 executes the bus operating system. The operating system may include ladder programs that are
23 described in more detail with reference to Figures 31a - 48.

24 The data transfer module 232 includes the programming necessary to communicate
25 data at high data rates between the computer 12 and the interface 24 or the remote location
26 110 (see Figures 1 and 3). The programming may include TCP/IP protocols and ethernet

1 protocols, for example. The operating system module 234 includes the computer operating
2 program. The computer operating program may be based on Windows NT, for example.

3 Figure 8 is a block diagram of a software system 250 that may be used to create the
4 HMIs. The HMIs allow an on-site technician (i.e., a technician on the bus 100, for example),
5 and a technician at a remote location, such as the central service center 156 of Figure 4, to
6 monitor and trouble shoot the bus 100 electrical, pneumatic, and mechanical systems. The
7 software system 250 may also be used to create one or more ladder programs that are used for
8 control and diagnostics of the bus.

9 Figures 9 - 29 illustrate HMIs created using the programming of Figure 8. In Figure 9,
10 an introductory page 290 is shown. The introductory page 290 includes a login page 291,
11 which may include a user name entry block and a password block that are used to control
12 access to further pages or HMIs. Upon successful login, a main page 300, illustrated in Figure
13 10, is displayed. The main page 300 includes a date block 301 and a time block 303. A status
14 section 309 allows the technician to quickly determine the status of the bus primary systems,
15 such as the engine, transmission, brake (ABS), heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC),
16 destination and computer control (CC) systems. As shown in Figure 10, each of the bus
17 primary systems has an associated ON or OFF light to indicate the system status. That is,
18 depending on satisfying specific criteria in the ladder programming system, each primary system
19 will have either an ON light or an OFF light lit. The ON light may indicate that all components
20 in a primary system are operating correctly or are otherwise in condition to allow operation of
21 the system. Conversely, the OFF light may indicate a problem with a component, or simply
22 that the system or component is off or otherwise not in operation.

23 Also shown in Figure 10 are front and rear start indicators. Specifically, the front start
24 system includes a front start ON indication 305. The rear start system includes a rear start ON
25 indication 307. When a front start is enabled, the front start ON indicator 303 may be
26 activated and the rear start ON indicator may be deactivated. Finally, the main page 300

1 includes buttons, or links 310 to other pages and diagnostic software packages, and a close
2 button 302 that is used to close operations accessible from the main page 300.

3 Figure 11 illustrates an electrical panel page 320. The page 320 includes a view of the
4 bus 100. The page 320 gives the technician an interactive view 321 of the bus electrical panels.
5 From the page 320, the technician is able to view the bus doors open and close, the exterior
6 lights flashing, wheel chair ramps operating, headlights operating and the destination sign
7 working. The page 320 may also be used to verify operation of bus sub-systems including the
8 destination sign, bus operating mode, state of interlocks and passenger (stop request) sub-
9 systems. The page 320 includes interactive features such as displays of various modules, that,
10 when selected, link the technician to more information related to the modules. As shown, the
11 view 321 includes a rear deck module 333, side modules 335, exit door module 331, entrance
12 door module 336, side console module 325, front panel module 323 and driver's area panel
13 module 327. The operation of these modules will be explained later in detail. Each of the
14 panels or modules shown in Figure 11 may be used to link to a page that displays more
15 information about the panel or module. The technician may activate the link by selecting a
16 desired panel or module using, for example, a mouse, and then activating the link by clicking on
17 the mouse. The page 320 also includes a link 337 to an electrical system page and a link 339
18 to the main page 300. Other links, pull-down menus, and interactive and color graphics display
19 elements may be included on the page 320.

20 Figure 12 illustrates a vehicle diagnostic page 340. The page 340 includes
21 representations 341a-c of the bus 100. The representations 341a-c may include interactive
22 features that show various changes in the bus 100 during operation or diagnostic testing. For
23 example, the representation 341 a may show the entrance door as open when the actual
24 entrance door is opened on the bus 100, either during operation of the bus 100, or during
25 diagnostic testing of the bus 100. Similarly, the representation 341c may show the left turn
26 signal blinking when the left turn signal is activated on the bus 100.

1 The page 340 also includes a diagnostics section 343. The diagnostics section includes
2 buttons that may be used to access various diagnostic pages to test bus features. For example,
3 a stop request button may be used to access a diagnostics test page to test the passenger stop
4 request feature. An example of a diagnostics test page will be described in detail later. Other
5 diagnostic pages accessible from the page 340 include entrance door, exit door, back-up lights,
6 high beam, RH turn lights, LH turn lights, kneeling raise, kneeling down, W/C ramp up, W/C
7 ramp down, curbside lights, streetside lights, and hazard lights. The page 340 also includes a
8 destination sign window 344, and interlock window 345, a retarder on window 346, a day run
9 window 347, and a brake application window 348. The windows may be interactive and may
10 be used to link to other pages related to the specified features. Alternatively, the windows may
11 only provide an indication that the associated feature is activated. For example, the brake
12 application window may be highlighted when the bus brake pedal is pushed. Finally, the page
13 340 also includes a link 338 to the electrical system overview page 320 and a link 339 to the
14 main page 300.

15 Figure 13 illustrates a rear deck panel page 350. Similar pages are available for other
16 panels and modules. The page 350 includes a graphical representation 351 of the rear deck
17 panel and graphical representations 353, 355, 357 and 359 of components of the rear deck
18 panel. The page 350 also includes links 337, 338 and 339 to other pages. Using the page
19 350, the technician may access individual nodes or diagnostic software. For example, the
20 technician may link to pages for rear deck #2 node 3 (353), rear deck #2 node 2 (355), rear
21 deck #1 node #1 (359), and transmission diagnostics 357.

22 Figure 14 illustrates a node page 360 for the rear deck #1, node #1. The page 360
23 includes a feature section 361 that displays, in column format, various bus components that are
24 coupled to rear deck #1, node #1. An address column 365 includes addresses that
25 correspond to physical locations of components of the bus 100. An indicator column 366
26 includes one of four possible indications. The indications are an input, an output, a short circuit,

1 and an open circuit, as shown in legend 363. The indicator output shows that a particular
2 component provides an output to the system 10. The input indicator shows that the component
3 receives an input from the system 10. A component may both provide an output and receive an
4 input.

5 The short circuit and open circuit indicators may light when a component is subject to a
6 malfunction. A sensing circuit, operating in parallel with the monitored component, may be
7 used to provide the short or open condition.

8 The indicators may also include graphical representations of lights that change color to
9 indicate a status of a particular function. For example, an indicator for the function “Low Oil
10 Press. Sw.” may change color to indicate that oil pressure is above the minimum specified, or
11 that a low oil pressure interlock is closed to allow the bus engine to operate. In another
12 example, a green indicator light for an Engine Ignition function may indicate that the engine
13 ignition system electronic control unit is receiving power. The function column 367 includes a
14 name of the function monitored. Some functions in the function column 367 may include an
15 active link to an object in the database 22 (see Figure 1). The linked object may be displayed
16 by selecting and activating the link. For example, a function Low Oil Press. Sw. may include a
17 link to a virtual oil pressure gage that is stored as an object in the database 22. Displaying the
18 virtual oil pressure gage allows the technician to monitor in real-time, or in a replay mode, actual
19 oil pressure, even if the bus 100 does not include an actual (physical) oil pressure gage. The
20 use of the links will be described in more detail later.

21 Finally, the page 360 includes links to other pages. These links include the electrical
22 panel overview link 338, the electrical systems overview link 337, the main system link 339 and
23 a rear deck panel link 364. Also included on the page 360 is a graphical representation 368 of
24 the node #1.

1 Figure 15 illustrates a node page 370 for rear deck #1 node 3. The page 370 includes
2 a graphical representation 374 of a transit block, address column 375, indicator column 376
3 and function column 377. Also included are links 337, 338, 339 and 364 to other pages.

4 Figures 16 - 29 illustrate other node pages that are available with the system 100 of
5 Figure 1.

6 Figure 30 illustrates an HMI 800 that may be used to monitor operation of a bus
7 subsystem, and to perform diagnostics and trouble shooting. The HMI 800 includes a virtual
8 gage 802 that may be used to display, in real-time, or near real time, a measured parameter in
9 bus subsystem. The gage may also be programmed to display historical data, such as data
10 stored in the database 22 of Figure 1. In the illustrated example, the bus subsystem may be an
11 engine oil subsystem, and the virtual gage 802 may be programmed to display measured oil
12 pressure at an outlet of an oil pump. The gage 802 may operate based on transfer of data
13 between the bus subsystem and the processor driving the HMI 800. The gage 802 may also
14 provide a visual indication when the bus subsystem itself does not include an actual oil pressure
15 gage. The HMI 800 is also shown capable of displaying oil pressure data in a graphical format
16 804 over a time period selected by the technician. Such graphical display may use real-time or
17 near real time data, or data stored in the database 22. The HMI 800 may include a schematic
18 806 showing the location of a pressure sensor 807 in the engine oil subsystem. The HMI may
19 include a two or three-dimensional drawing showing the location of the pressure sensor 807 in
20 the actual bus. The HMI 800 may include other troubleshooting and diagnostics features, such
21 as procedures to remove the pressure sensor, a list of symptoms, possible causes, and
22 suggested corrective actions. Other features may include types/sizes of tools needed to repair a
23 problem, a machinery history record for the pressure sensor and other engine oil subsystem
24 components, a parts list, and a link to automatically order any listed part from the bus
25 manufacturer. The HMI may also include a link to the bus manufacturer that transfers selected

1 data, such as data that allows the bus manufacturer to aggregate data related to the
2 performance of specific bus components.

3 When the HMI 800 is displayed, the technician may then link to other objects in the
4 database 22 that correspond to a function by, for example, selecting the desired function, and
5 “clicking-on” with a mouse or other pointing device. The technician will then be presented with
6 a page showing the corresponding virtual object. The virtual object may be selected to display
7 a current (and varying) value, or may display historical data stored in the database 22.

8 The pressure gage 802 (or other virtual object displayed on an HMI) may be linked, or
9 tagged to a specific item in a ladder program that is used to operate the bus. For example, the
10 gage 802 may be tagged to the item PLC_POWER (at address N:10:1) shown in Figure 31 a.

11 Figures 31a - 48 illustrate representative ladder programs that may be used to control
12 and diagnose the bus. While ladder programming is illustrated, other programming methods
13 may be used. The ladder programs may be accessed at a remote location, or on site on the
14 bus. The ladder functions indicate which parameters must be satisfied in order for the bus to
15 perform a specific function. Taking Figure 32a as an example, the ladder program shows the
16 specific conditions that must be satisfied in order to perform a power start of the bus 100. As
17 shown in Figure 32a, for a rear start, a rear selected switch must be closed (a rear start means
18 that the bus engine is started from the engine compartment, as opposed to the driver’s station).

19 When accessed from a remote location, the ladder programs may allow the technician
20 to remotely control functions of the bus. A pull down menu tied to the program ladder may
21 include force select and force de-select functions that permit the technician to remotely operate
22 components of the bus 100. Continuing with the example of Figure 32a, a technician at a
23 remote location may desire to enable rear start of a bus, but the displayed ladder program
24 indicates the rear selected switch is open. The technician may, using an appropriate pointing
25 device, a mouse for example, select the rear selected switch, “right click” to display a pull down

- 1 menu, and select a force select feature from the menu. This process send a signal to the system
- 2 10 on the bus 100, causing the rear selected switch to close.

1 In the claims:

2 1. A system for control and operation of buses, comprising:

3 a bus, comprising:

4 one or more input/output (I/O) blocks coupled to bus components,

5 a data bus coupled to the I/O blocks,

6 a scanner card coupled to the data bus, the scanner card reading data signals
7 off the data bus and providing signals to the I/O blocks using the data bus,

8 a computer coupled to the scanner card and controlling operation of the
9 scanner card, wherein the computer comprises:

10 diagnostics modules that determine a status of bus components, and

11 a control module that provides control functions to bus components,

12 an interface coupled to the computer, wherein the interface comprises:

13 a display that displays human to machine interfaces indicative of the bus
14 components, and

15 a user input that provides commands from a user to the computer,

16 a bus database that stores parameter values for the bus components;

17 a hub that receives data related to operation of the bus, wherein the hub comprises an
18 Internet web site, and wherein the bus data are posted on the Internet web site; and

19 a remote location that accesses the Internet web site to receive the bus data.

20 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote location access programming used by the
21 control module and uses the accessed programming to control one or more operations
22 of the bus.

23 3. A system for remote control of buses and for data retrieval from the buses, comprising:

24 a bus, comprising:

25 a control module using programming to control operation of one or more bus
26 systems, and

1 a transmit/receive device that communicates with a remote location to provide
2 data related to the one or more bus systems and to receive control signals directing an
3 operation of one or more of the one or more bus systems.

4 4. A system for controlling and diagnosing operation of a bus, comprising:
5 one or more input/output (I/O) blocks coupled to bus components;
6 a data bus coupled to the I/O blocks;
7 a scanner card coupled to the data bus; the scanner card reading data signals off the
8 data bus and providing signals to the I/O blocks using the data bus;
9 a computer coupled to the scanner card and controlling operation of the scanner card,
10 wherein the computer comprises:

11 diagnostics modules that determine a status of bus components, and
12 a control module that provides control functions to bus components;
13 an interface coupled to the computer, wherein the interface comprises:
14 a display that displays human to machine interfaces indicative of the bus
15 components, and

16 a user input that provide commands from a user to the computer; and
17 a database that stores parameter values for the bus components.

18 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the interface is installed on the bus.

19 6. The system of claim 4, further comprising a remote interface installed at a location
20 remote from the bus, wherein the computer communicates with the remote interface
21 using a wireless communication module.

22 7. The system of claim 4, wherein the database further comprises virtual objects, each of
23 the virtual objects corresponding to a component of the bus, wherein the virtual objects
24 are displayed to indicate real-time variation of a parameter of the bus component.

25 8. The system of claim 7, wherein a virtual object is displayed as part of a human to
26 machine interface.

- 1 9. The system of claim 4, wherein the control module comprises one or more ladder
2 programs, and wherein a ladder program comprises one or more features required to
3 operate a bus component.
- 4 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the ladder program comprises a remote operation
5 function that permits remote control of the one or more features.

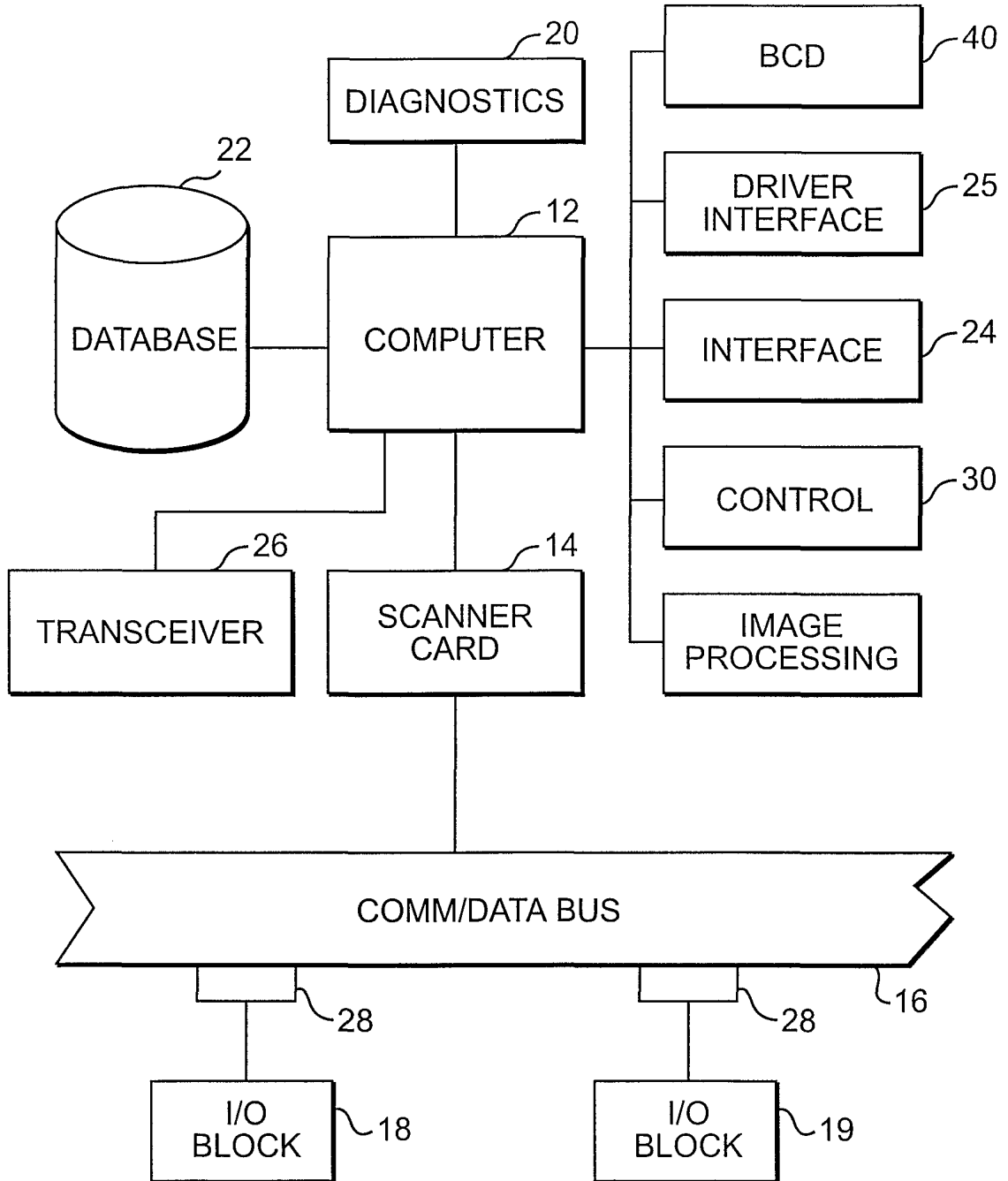


FIG. 1

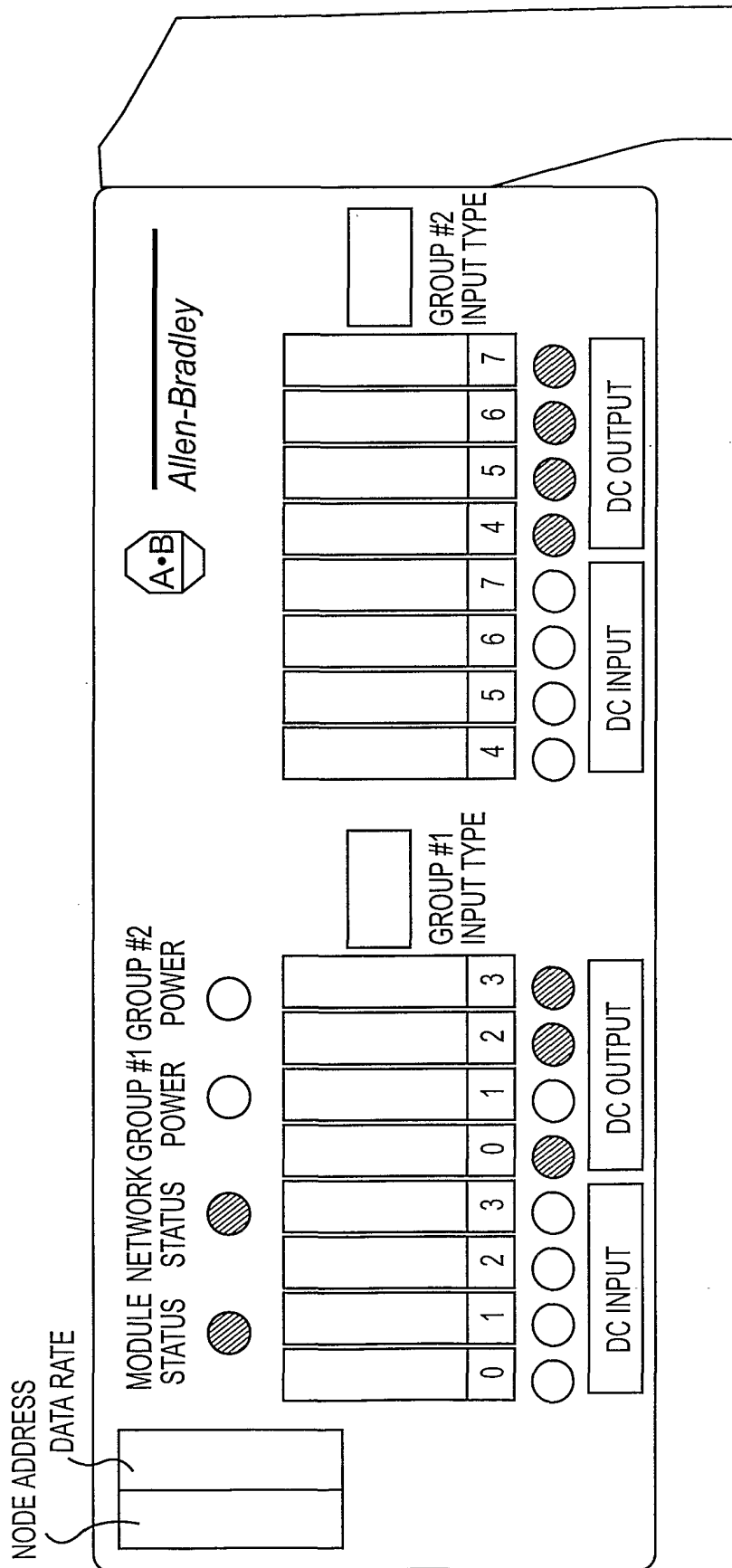


FIG. 2

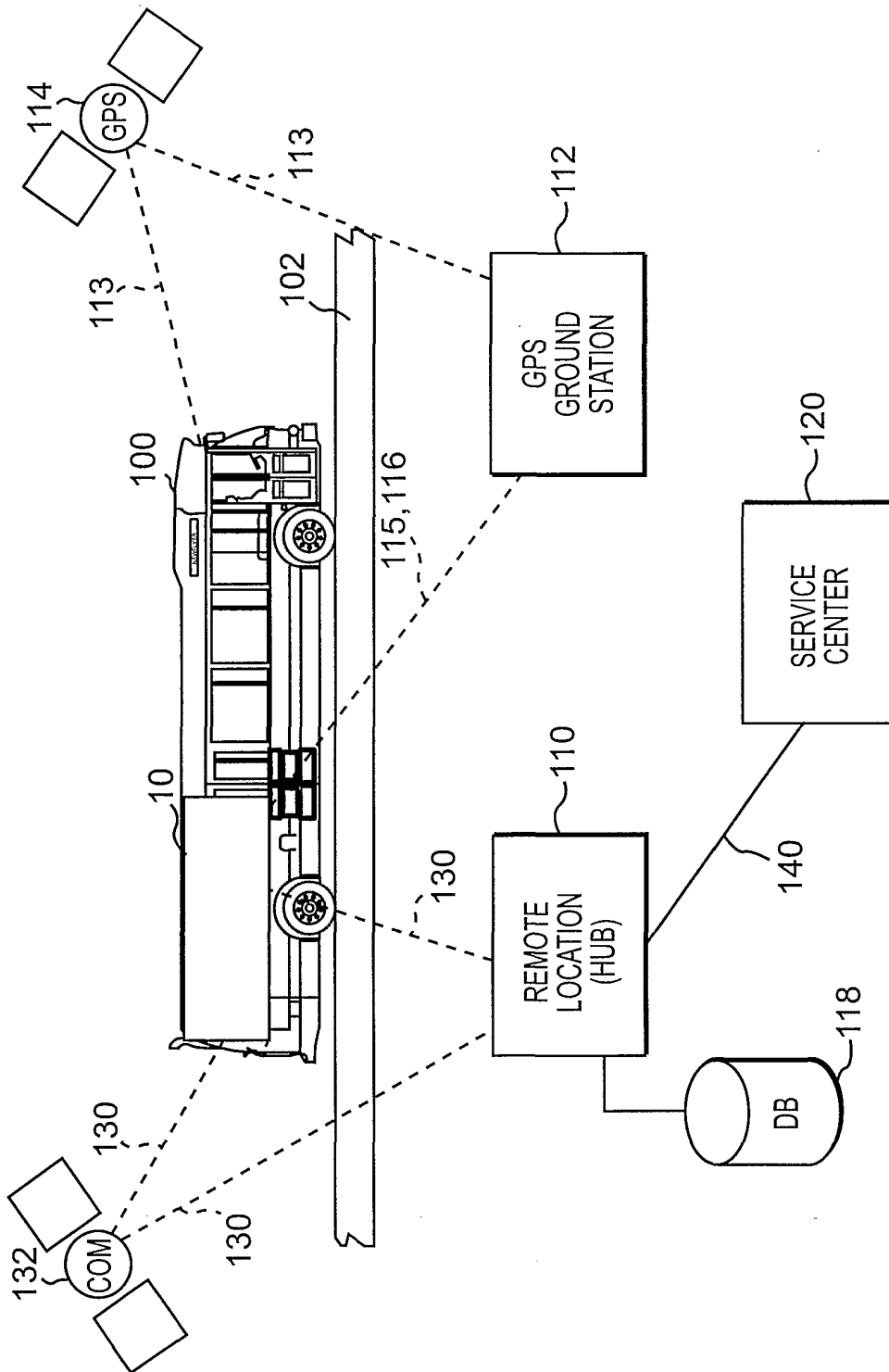


FIG. 3a

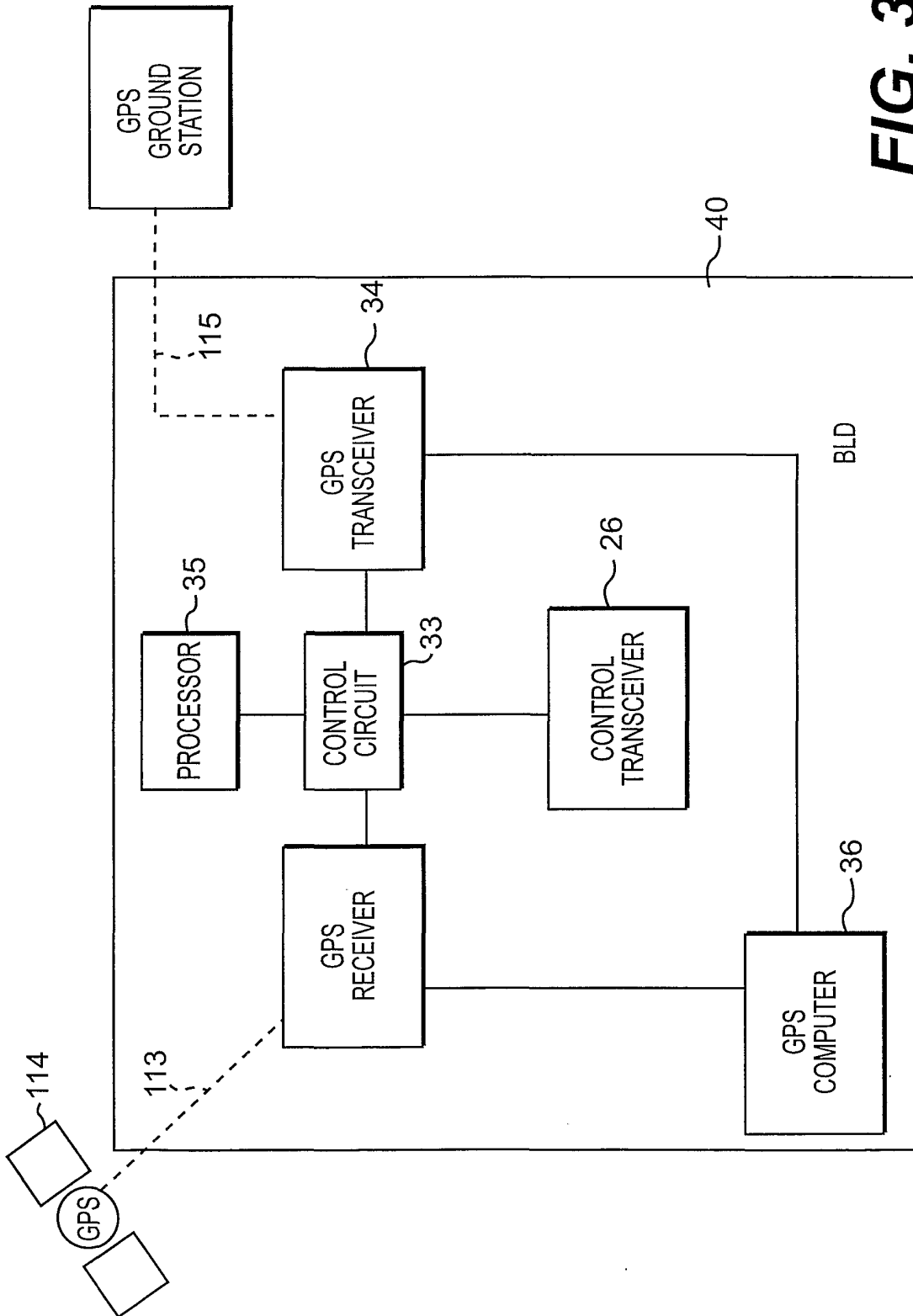


FIG. 3b

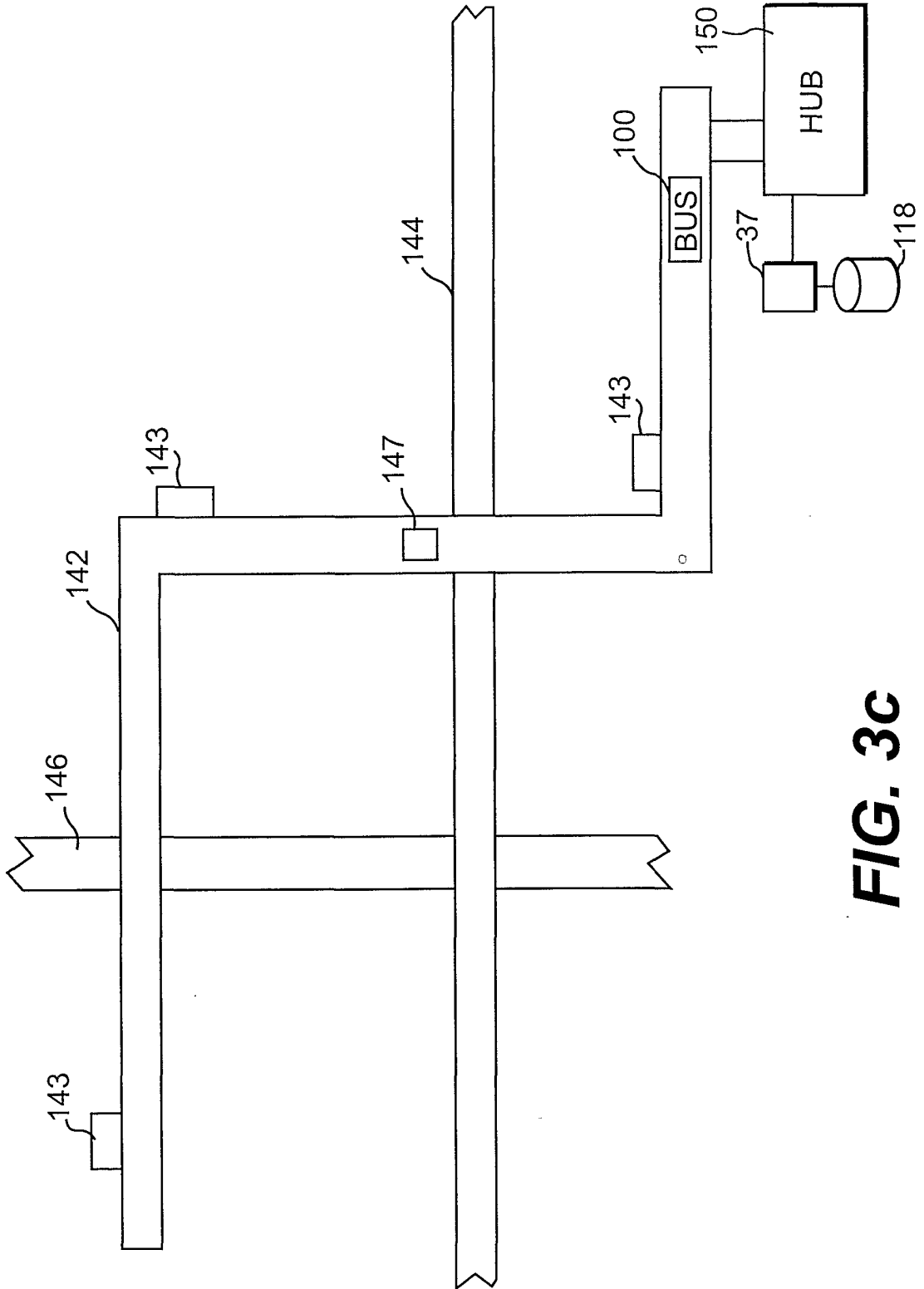


FIG. 3C

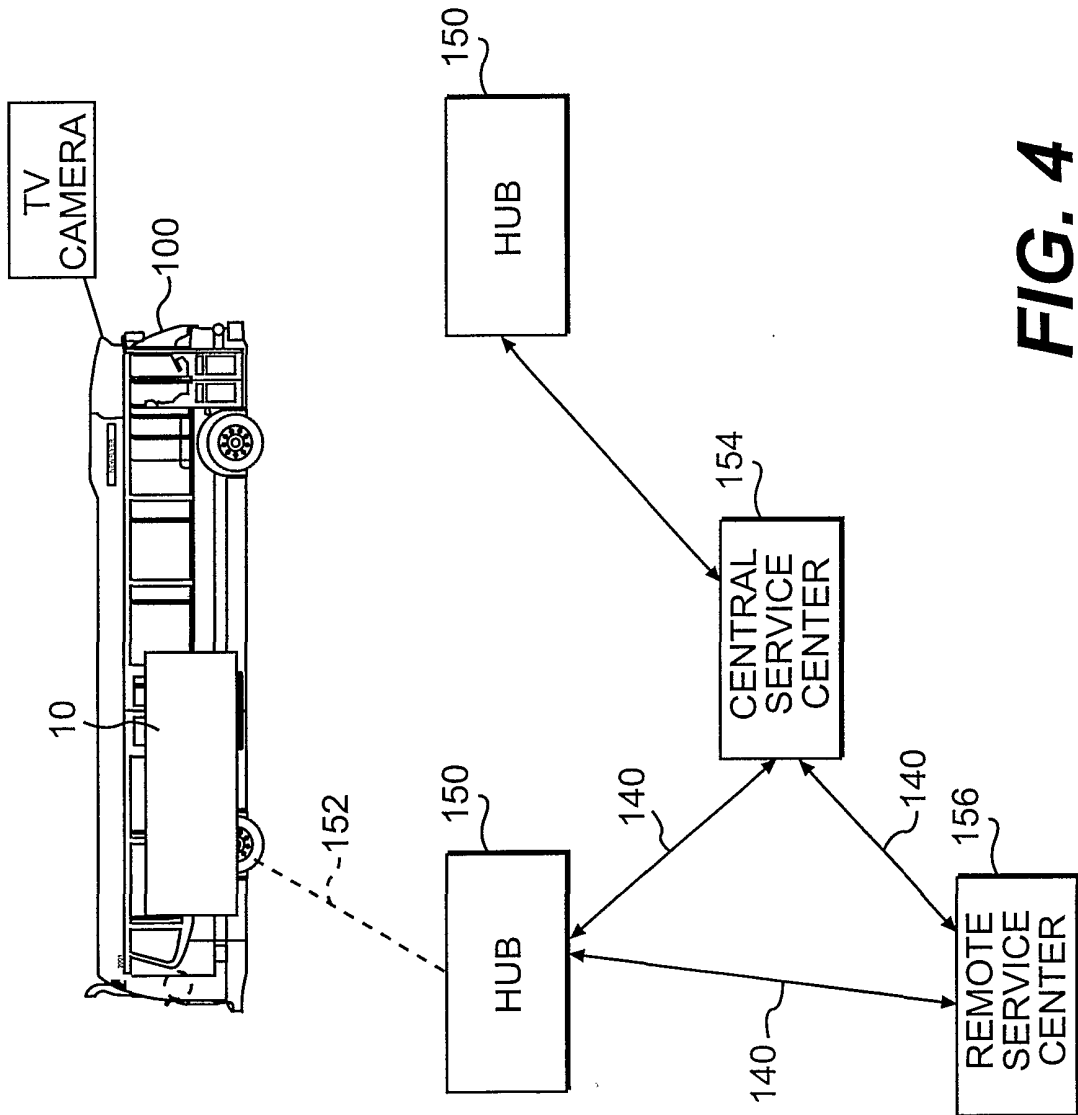


FIG. 4

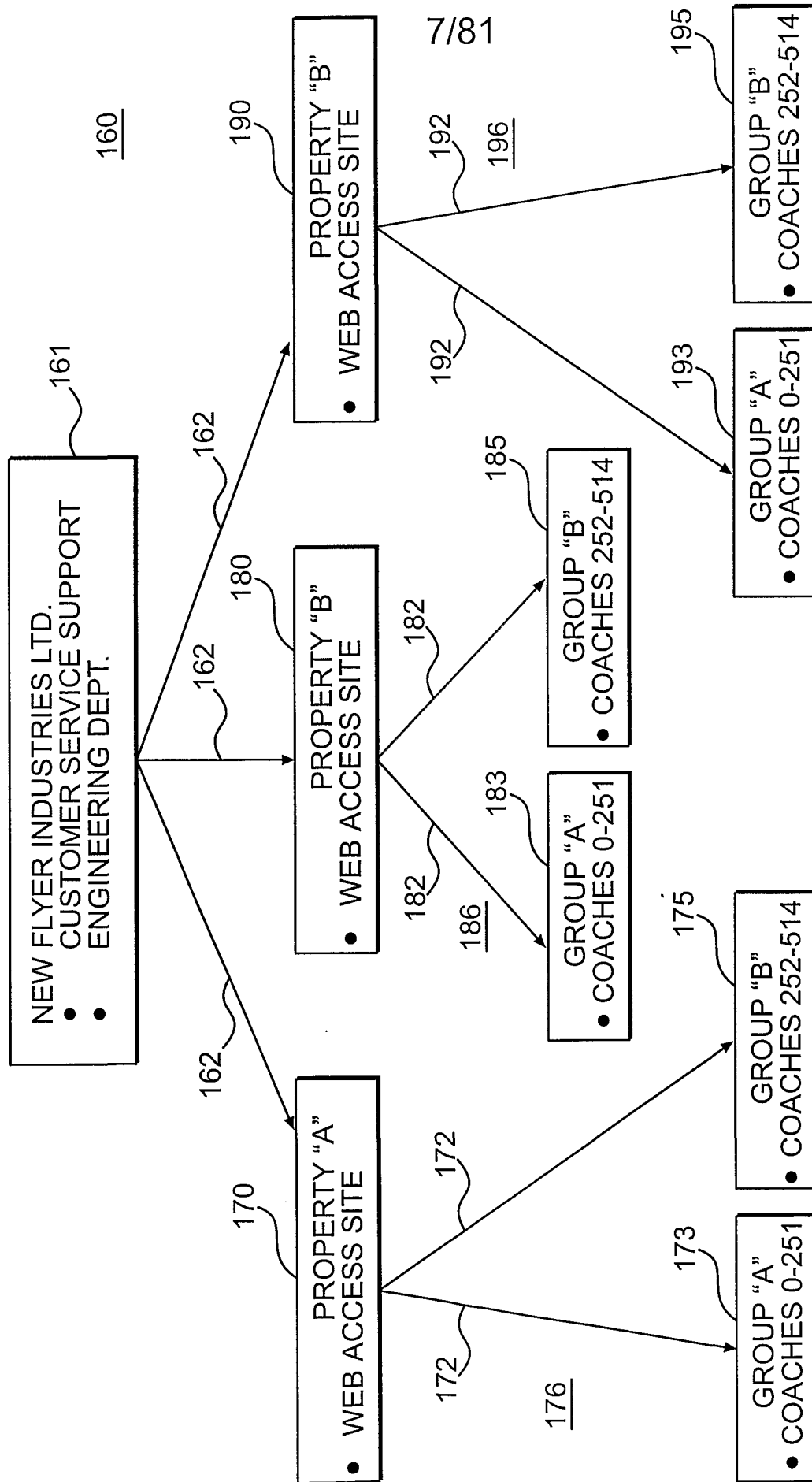


FIG. 5

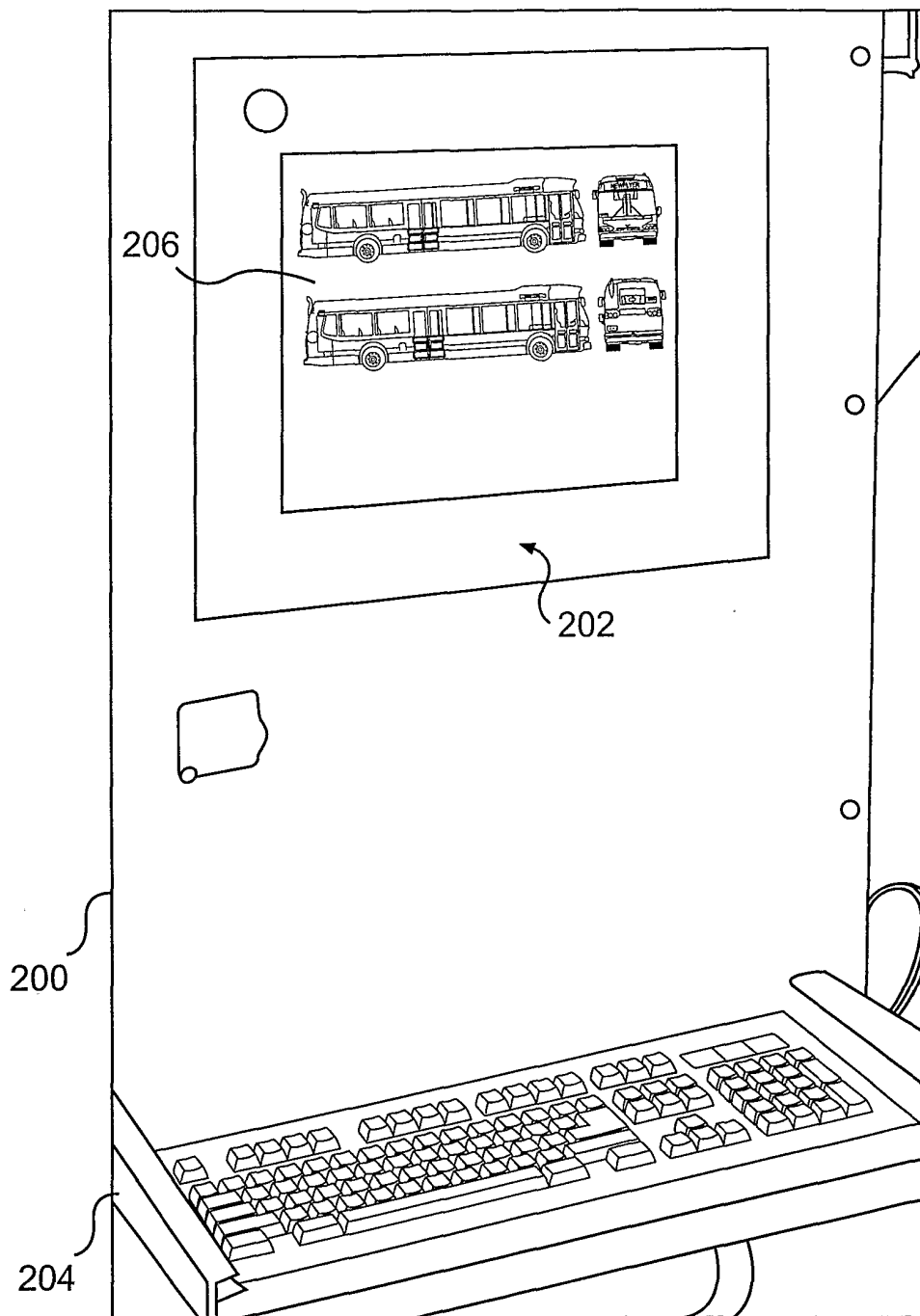


FIG. 6a

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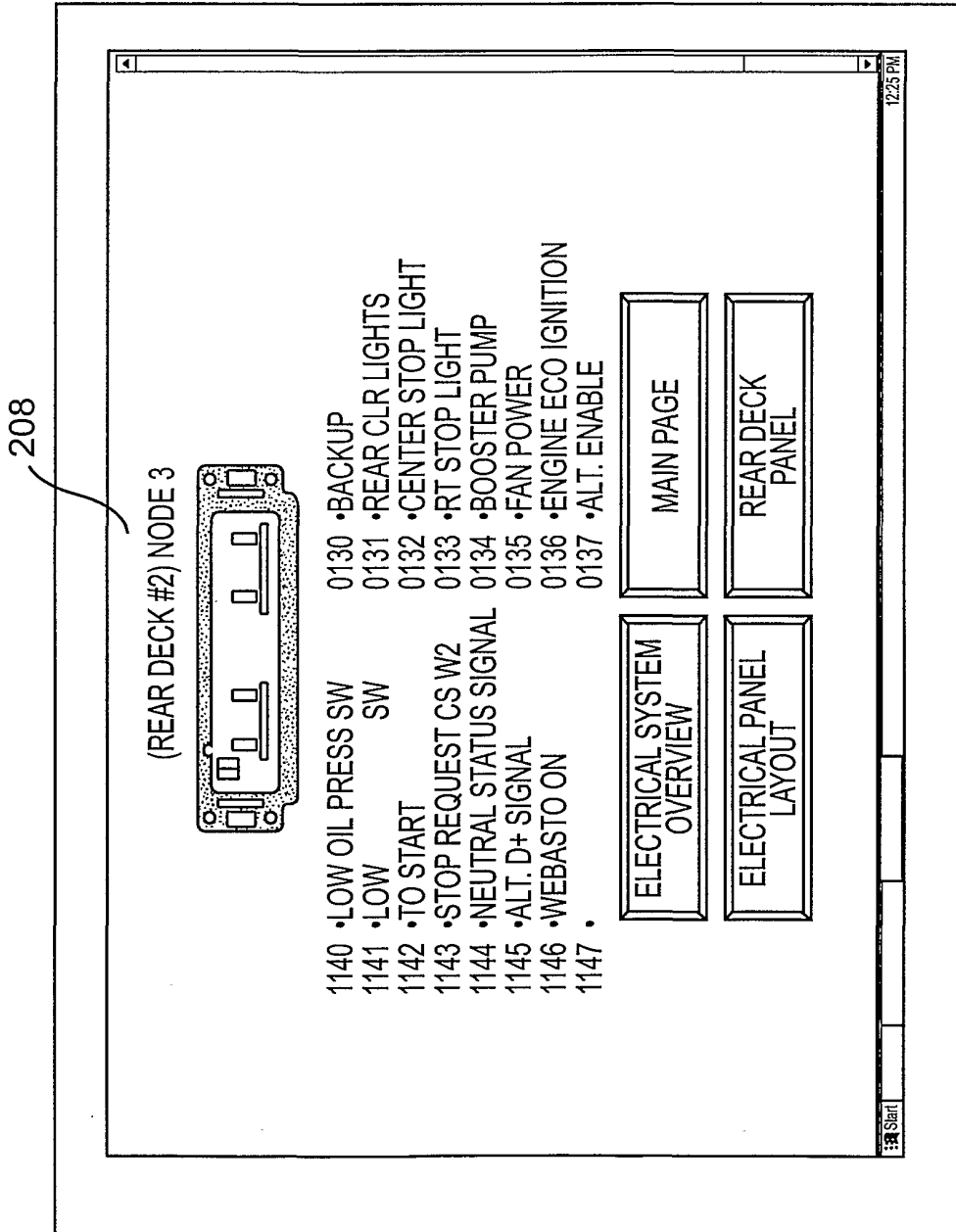


FIG. 6b

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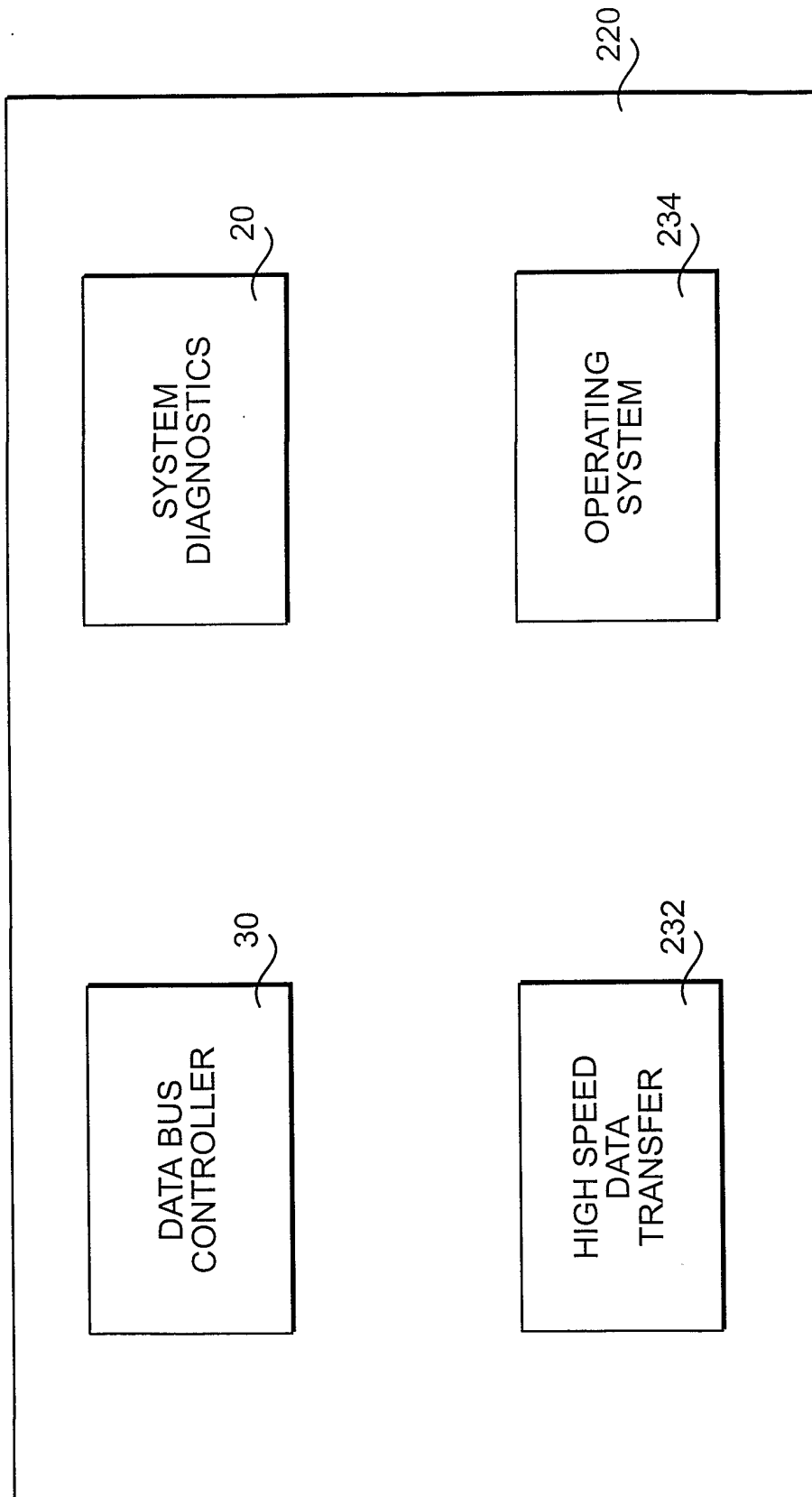


FIG. 7

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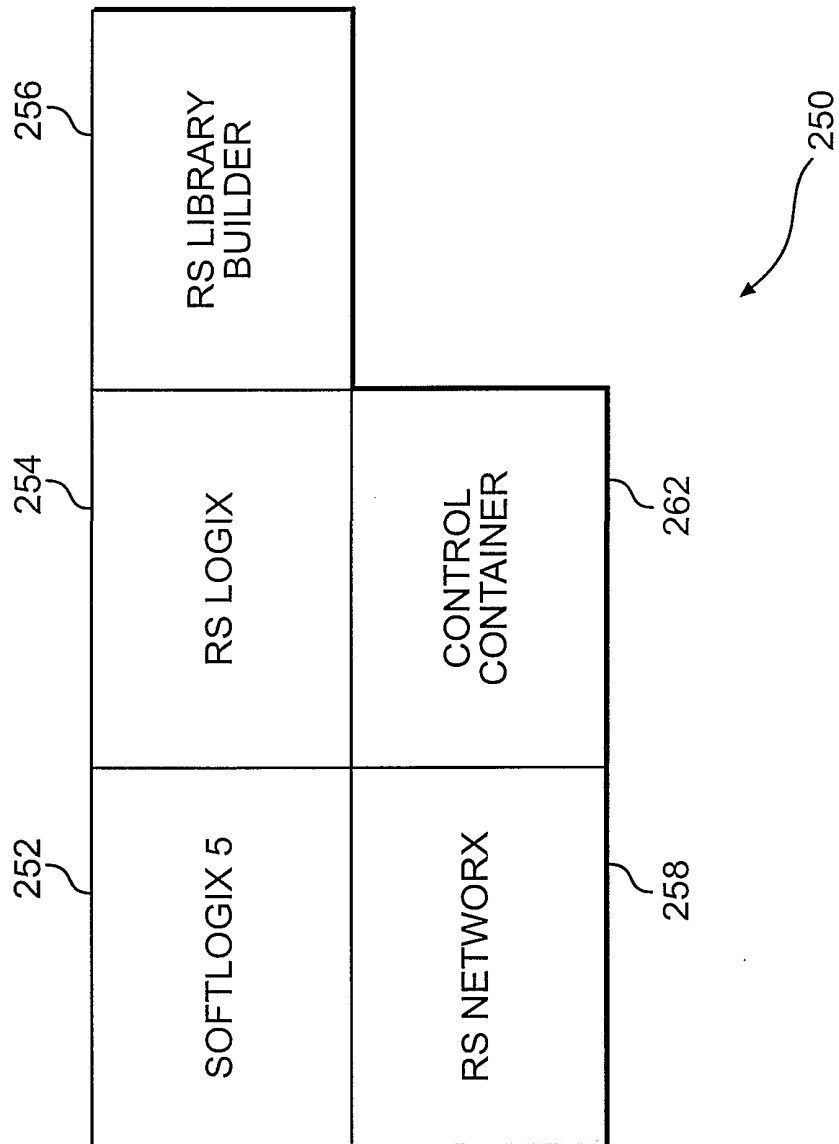


FIG. 8

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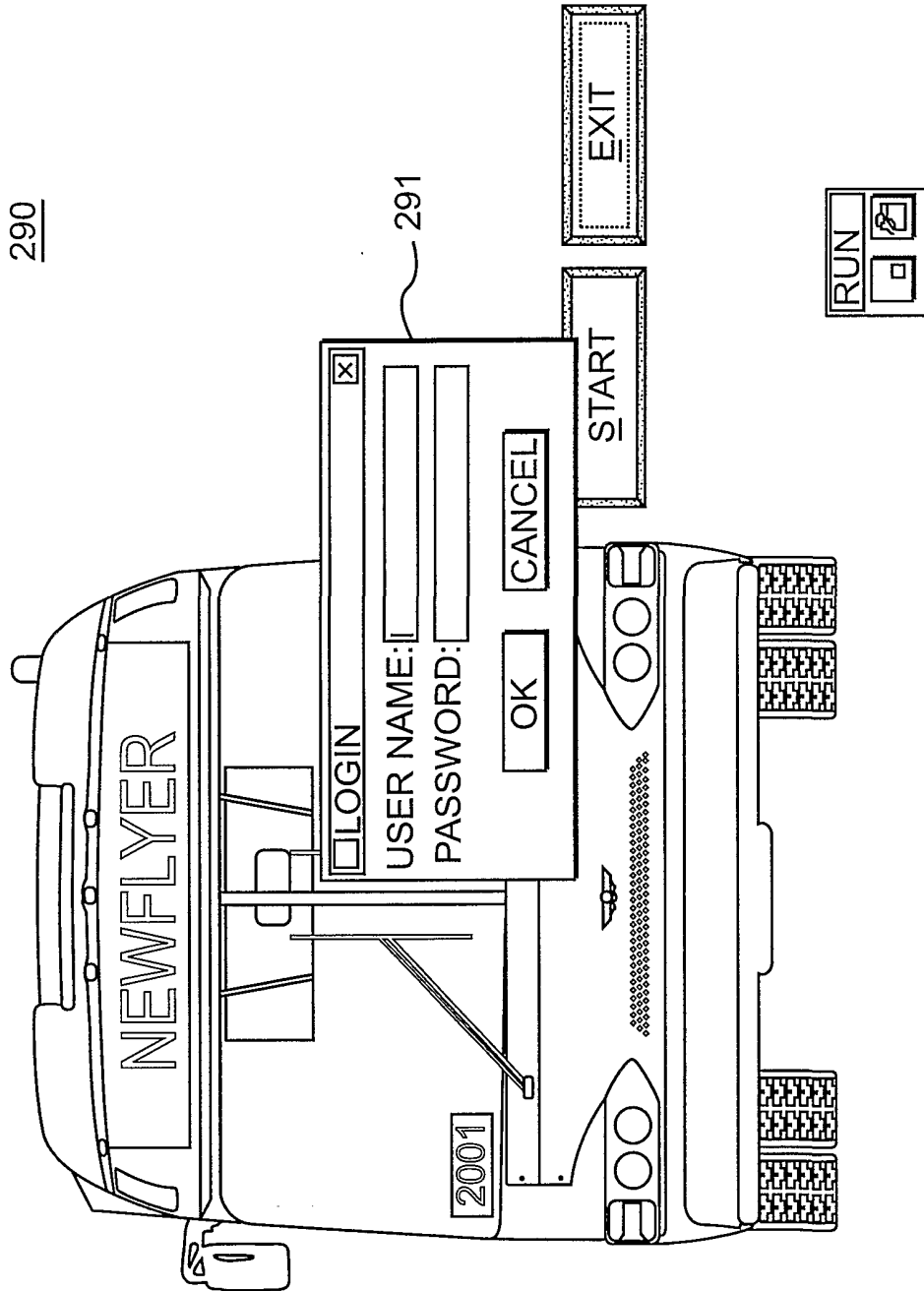


FIG. 9

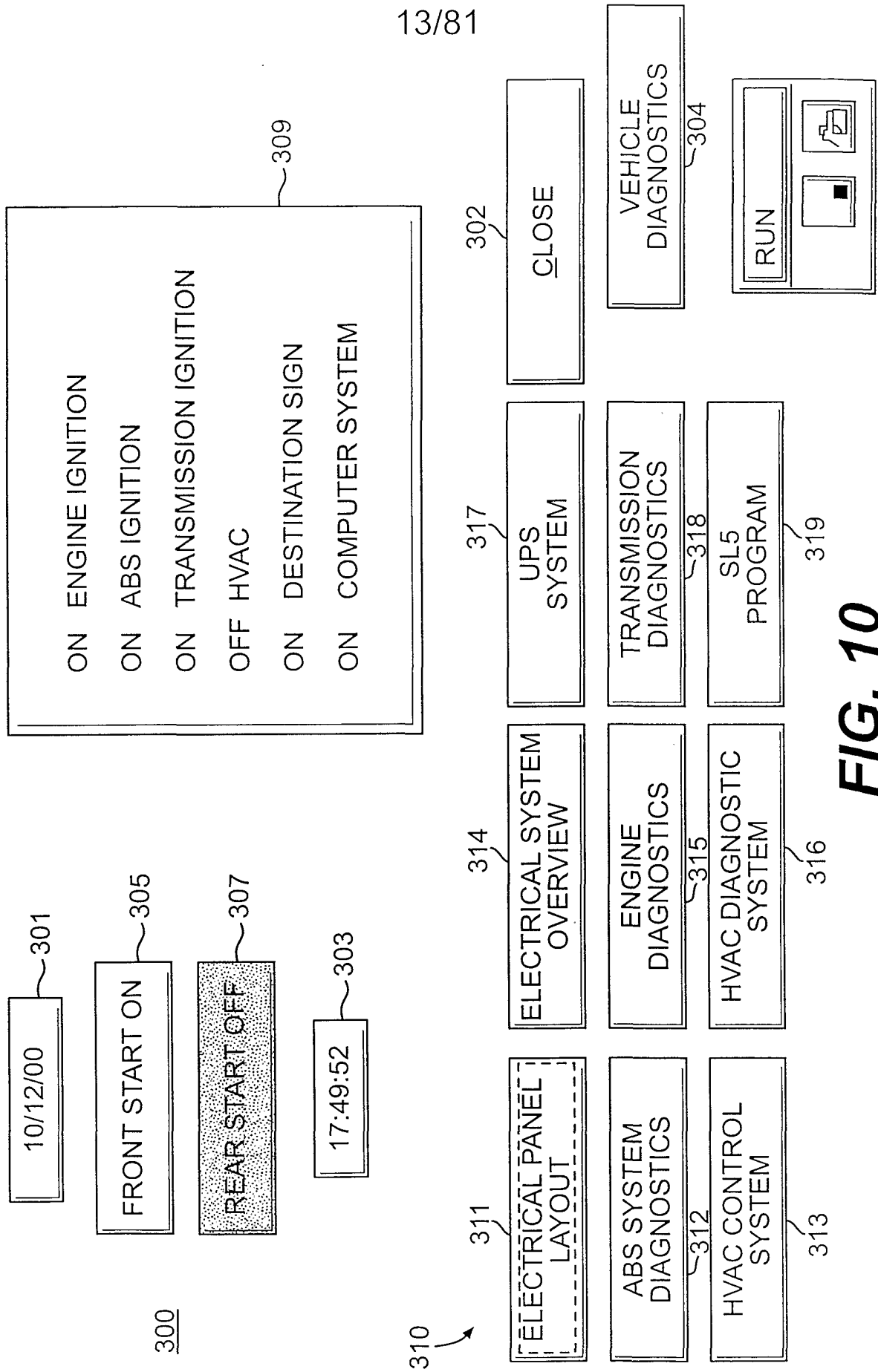


FIG. 10

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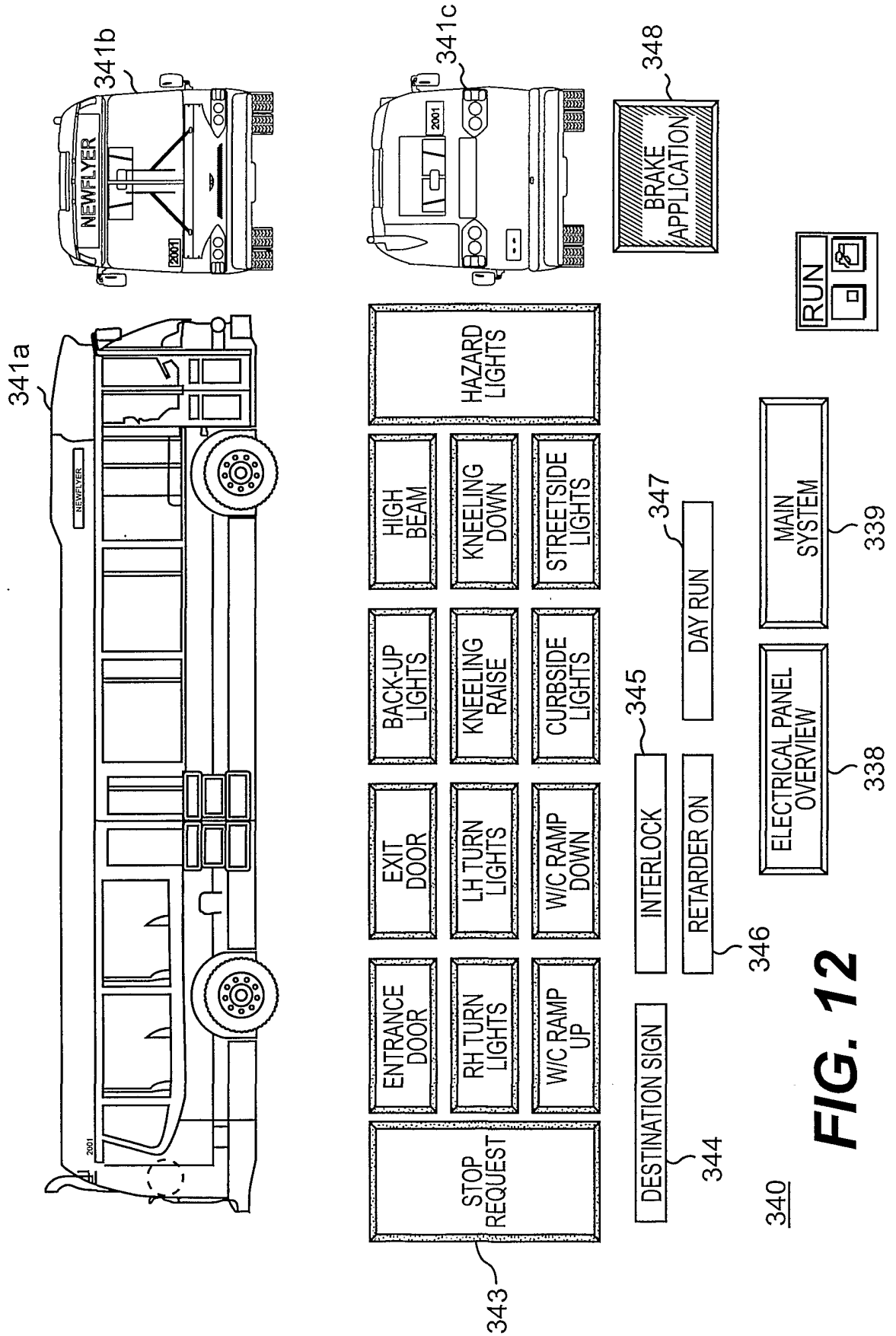


FIG. 12

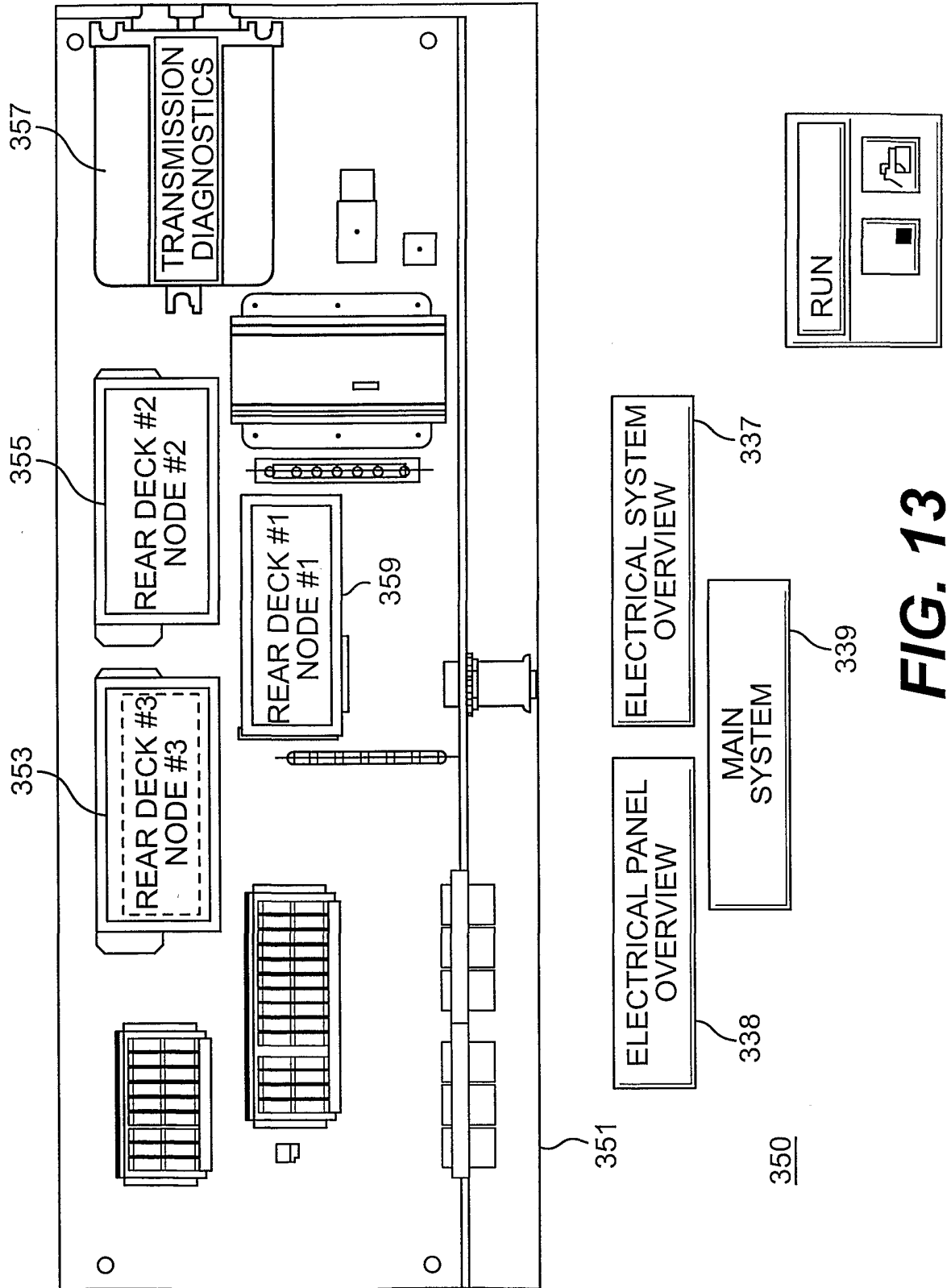


FIG. 13



- | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----|----------|-----------------------|-----|
| 365 | 366 | 367 | 365 | 366 | 367 |
| N10:1/0 | ○ NOT USED | | N10:1/8 | ○ BRAKE SIGNAL ENGINE | |
| N10:1/1 | ○ SERVICE BRAKE TRANS | | N10:1/9 | ○ REMOTE THROTTLE | |
| N10:1/2 | ○ ACCEL. INTERLOCK | | N10:1/10 | ○ IDLE VALID ON | |
| N10:1/3 | ○ RETARDER ENABLE | | N10:1/11 | ○ IDLE VALID OFF | |
| N10:1/4 | ○ SHIFT ENABLE | | N10:1/12 | ○ SERVICE LTS | |
| N10:1/5 | ○ FAST IDLE ENABLE | | N10:1/13 | ○ RETARDER MODULE 3/3 | |
| N10:1/6 | ○ NOT USED | | N10:1/14 | ○ RETARDER MODULE 2/3 | |
| N10:1/7 | ○ NOT USED | | N10:1/15 | ○ PLC POWER | |

361 →

360

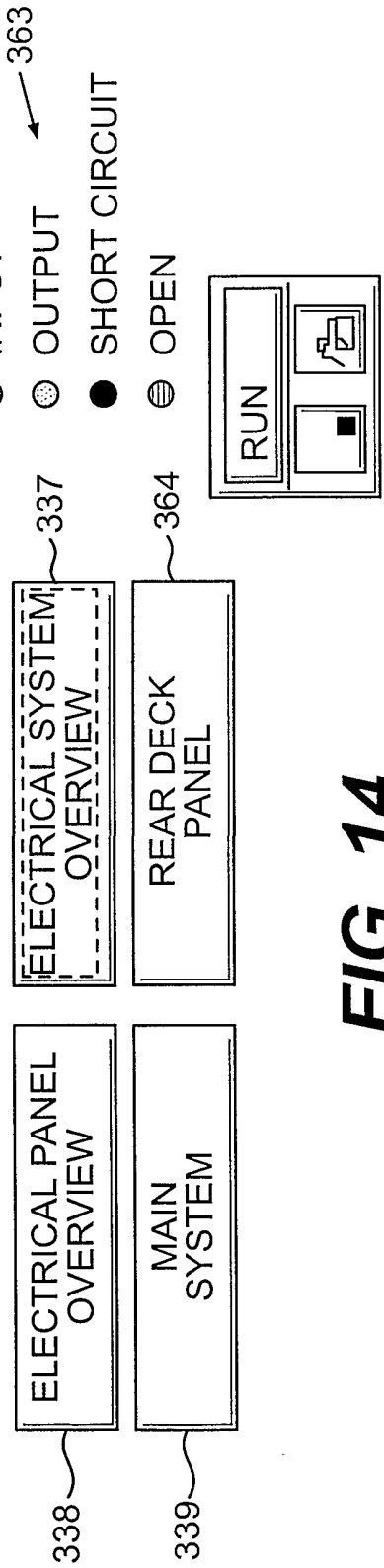
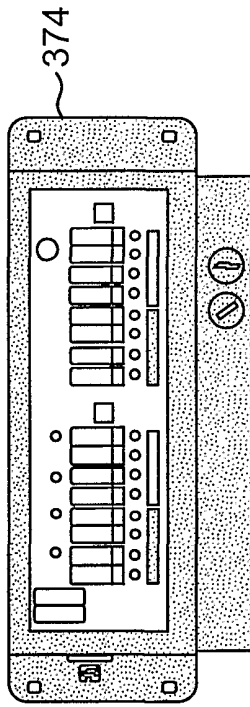


FIG. 14



- N11:2/0 FRONT START SELECTED N10:2/0 LEFT STOP LIGHT
- N11:2/1 REAR START SELECTED N10:2/1 TAIL LIGHTS
- N11:2/2 REAR START SWITCH N10:2/2 LT RR TURN LIGHT
- N11:2/3 STARTER LOCKOUT N10:2/3 RT RR TURN LIGHT
- N11:2/4 REVERSE N10:2/4 STARTER
- N11:2/5 RETARDER ACTIVE N10:2/5 WEBASTO IGNITION
- N11:2/6 NOT USED N10:2/6 IGNITION TRANSMISSION
- N11:2/7 ZERO SPEED SIGNAL N10:2/7 NOT USED

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- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

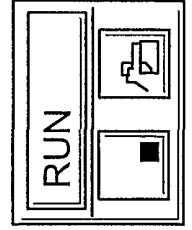
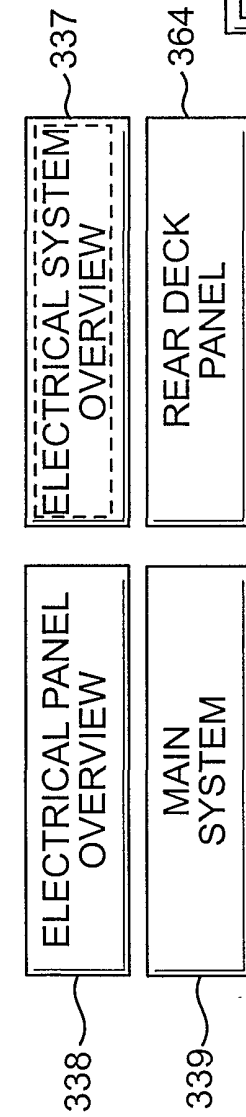
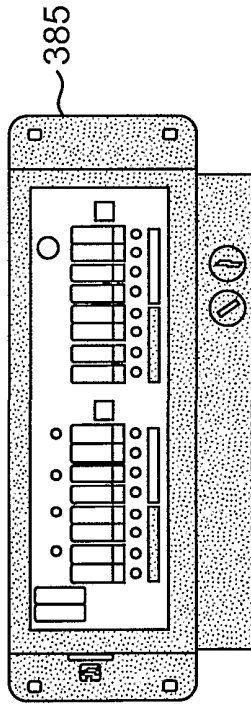


FIG. 15

370



- | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| N11:4/0 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:3/0 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BACKUP LTS. AND ALARM |
| N11:4/1 | <input type="radio"/> | LOW COOLANT SWITCH | N10:3/1 | <input type="radio"/> | REAR CLR LIGHTS |
| N11:4/2 | <input type="radio"/> | WAIT TO START | N10:3/2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CENTER STOP LIGHT |
| N11:4/3 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:3/3 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RT STOP LIGHT |
| N11:4/4 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | NEUTRAL STATUS SWITCH | N10:3/4 | <input type="radio"/> | BOOSTER PUMP |
| N11:4/5 | <input type="radio"/> | ALT. D + SIGNAL | N10:3/5 | <input type="radio"/> | FAN POWER |
| N11:4/6 | <input type="radio"/> | WEBASTO ON | N10:3/6 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ENGINE IGNITION |
| N11:4/7 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:3/7 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ALT. ENABLE |

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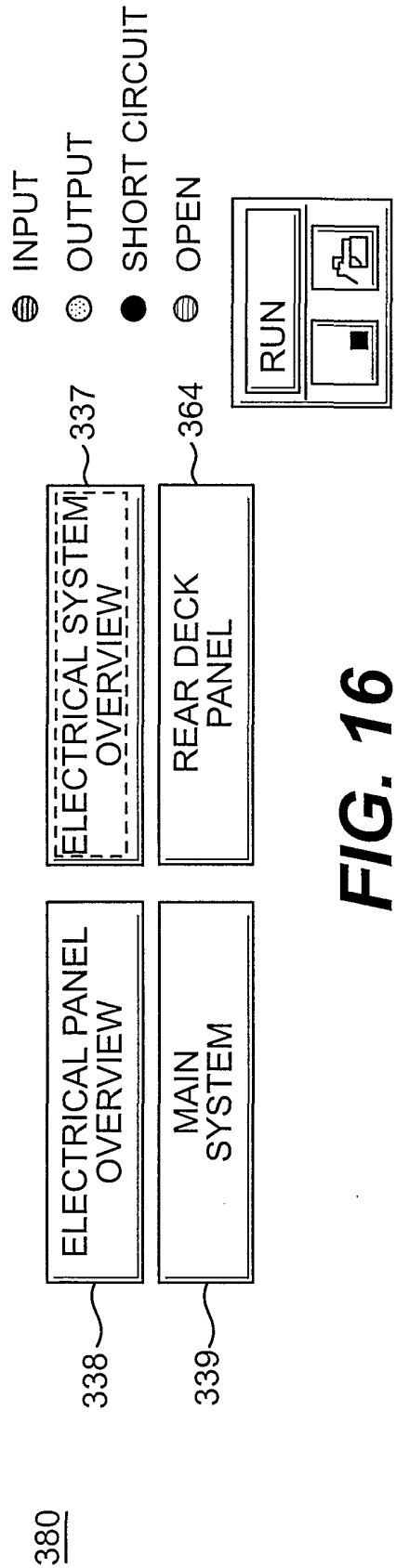
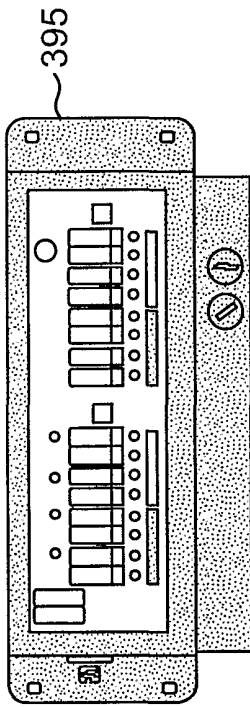


FIG. 16



- | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| N11:6/0 | <input type="radio"/> | STOP REQUEST #1 | N10:4/0 | <input type="radio"/> | STOP REQUEST |
| N11:6/1 | <input type="radio"/> | W/C STOP REQUEST | N10:4/1 | <input type="radio"/> | CLR LT FRT |
| N11:6/2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RETARDER SWITCH | N10:4/2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | AUX_BAT_REL |
| N11:6/3 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SYSTEM OVERRIDE | N10:4/3 | <input type="radio"/> | TURN SIGNAL LH#1 |
| N11:6/4 | <input type="radio"/> | ABS BLINK CODE | N10:4/4 | <input type="radio"/> | TURN SIGNAL LH#2 |
| N11:6/5 | <input type="radio"/> | SWITCH | N10:4/5 | <input type="radio"/> | MAP LIGHT |
| N11:6/6 | <input type="radio"/> | AC ENABLE | N10:4/6 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | FAREBOX LIGHT |
| N11:6/7 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:4/7 | <input type="radio"/> | LEFT SIDE #3-4 TURN LIGHT |

391 →

390

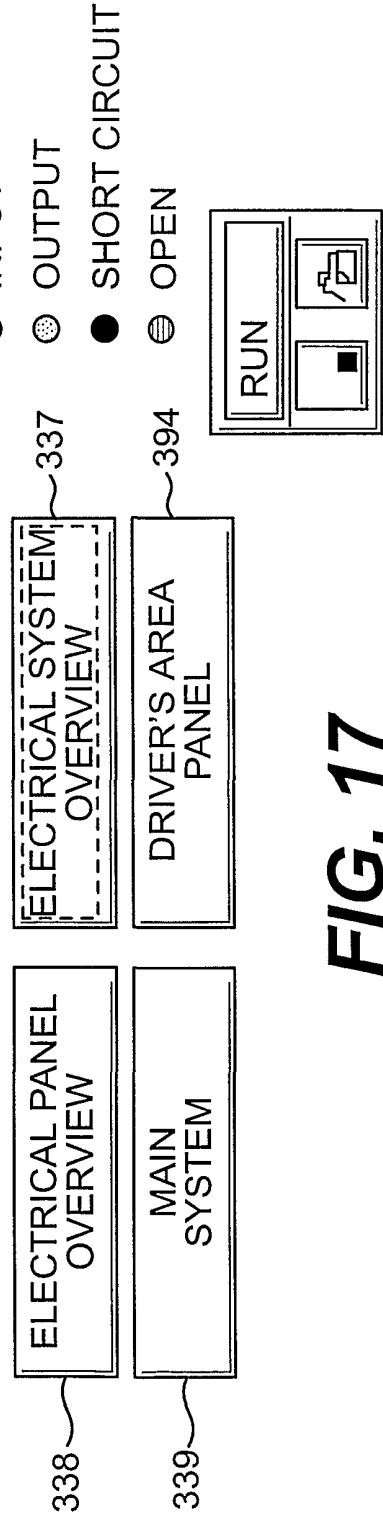


FIG. 17



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| N10:6/0 ○ HIGH BEAM INDICATOR | N10:6/8 ● ENTRANCE DOOR OPEN ILLUMINATION |
| N10:6/1 ● RIGHT TURN INDICATOR | N10:6/9 ○ KNEEL INDICATOR |
| N10:6/2 ● LEFT TURN INDICATOR | N10:6/10 ● BATTERY LOW INDICATOR |
| N10:6/3 ● INTERLOCK | N10:6/11 ○ W/C STOP INDICATOR |
| N10:6/4 ● KAYSOR IGNITION | N10:6/12 ○ A/C FAIL INDICATOR |
| N10:6/5 ○ SERVICE BRAKE INDICATOR | N10:6/13 ○ LOW COOL INDICATOR |
| N10:6/6 ● PARK BRAKE INDICATOR | N10:6/14 ○ REAR OPEN DOOR INDICATOR |
| N10:6/7 ○ W/C RAMP INDICATOR | N10:6/15 ○ STOP REQUEST INDICATOR |

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- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

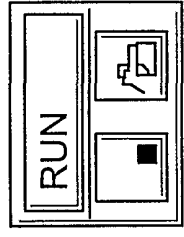
DRIVER'S AREA PANEL

ELECTRICAL PANEL OVERVIEW

MAIN SYSTEM

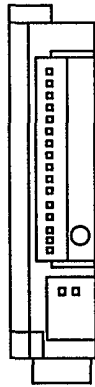
338

394



400

FIG. 18



- N11:9/0 ○ ENTRANCE DOOR CONTROLLER N11:9/8 ○ MAP LIGHT SWITCH
- N11:9/1 ○ EXIT DOOR CONTROLLER N11:9/9 ● AUXILIARY HEATER SW.
- N11:9/2 ○ HAZARD SWITCH N11:9/10 ● FAST IDLE SWITCH
- N11:9/3 ● DAY/NITE RUN MODE N11:9/11 ○ FLUORS. LIGHTS MODE#1
- N11:9/4 ○ NIGHT MODE N11:9/12 ○ FLUORS. LIGHT MODE#2
- N11:9/5 ○ PARK MODE N11:9/13 ○ NOT USED
- N11:9/6 ○ FRONT START SWITCH N11:9/14 ● PASS. CHIME CHANNEL
- N11:9/7 ● FAREBOX LIGHT SW. N11:9/15 ○ NOT USED

- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

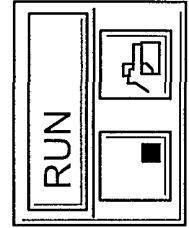


FIG. 19

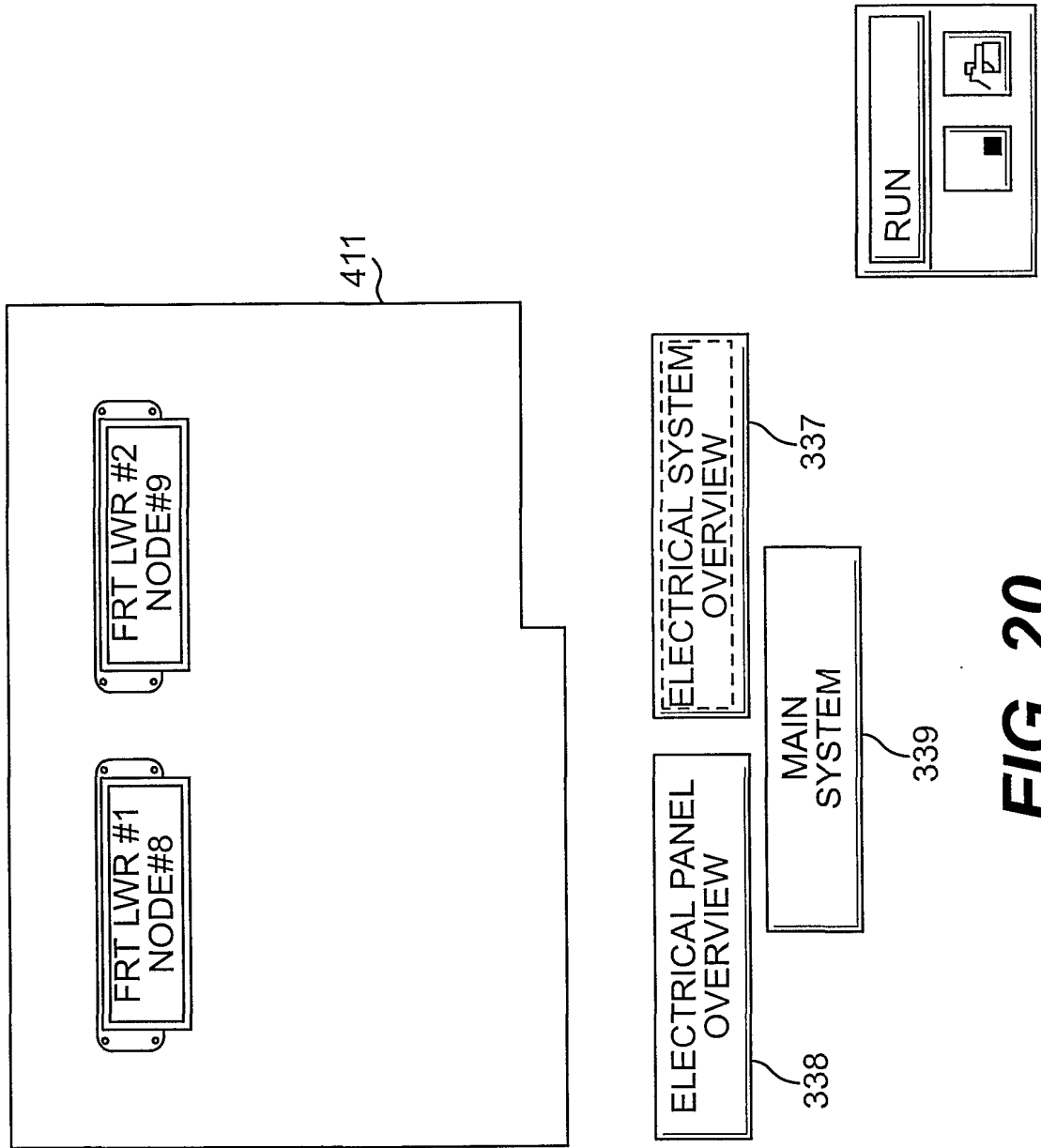
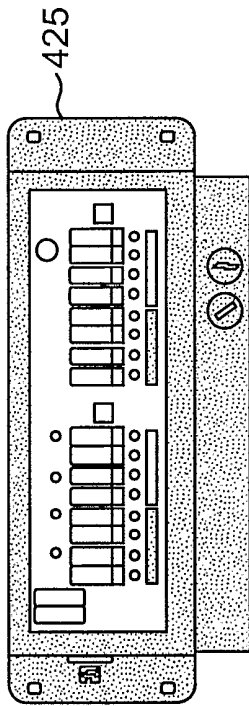


FIG. 20



- N11:8/0 ○ HIGH BEAM FOOT SW.
- N11:8/1 ○ LEFT TURN FOOT SW.
- N11:8/2 ○ RIGHT TURN FOOT SW.
- N11:8/3 ○ SERVICE BRAKE PR SW.
- N11:8/4 ⊕ PARK BRAKE PR SW.
- N11:8/5 ○ NOT USED
- N11:8/6 ○ STEERING COLUMN SW.
- N11:8/7 ○ NOT USED
- N10:5/0 ○ HORN#1
- N10:5/1 ○ LEFT HEADLIGHT LOWBEAM
- N10:5/2 ○ LEFT HEADLIGHT HIGHBEAM
- N10:5/3 ○ DESTINATION SIGN POWER
- N10:5/4 ⊕ STEERING COLUMN MV
- N10:5/5 ○ KNEELING RAISE MV
- N10:5/6 ○ KNEELING HOLD MV
- N10:5/7 ○ KNEELING LOWER MV

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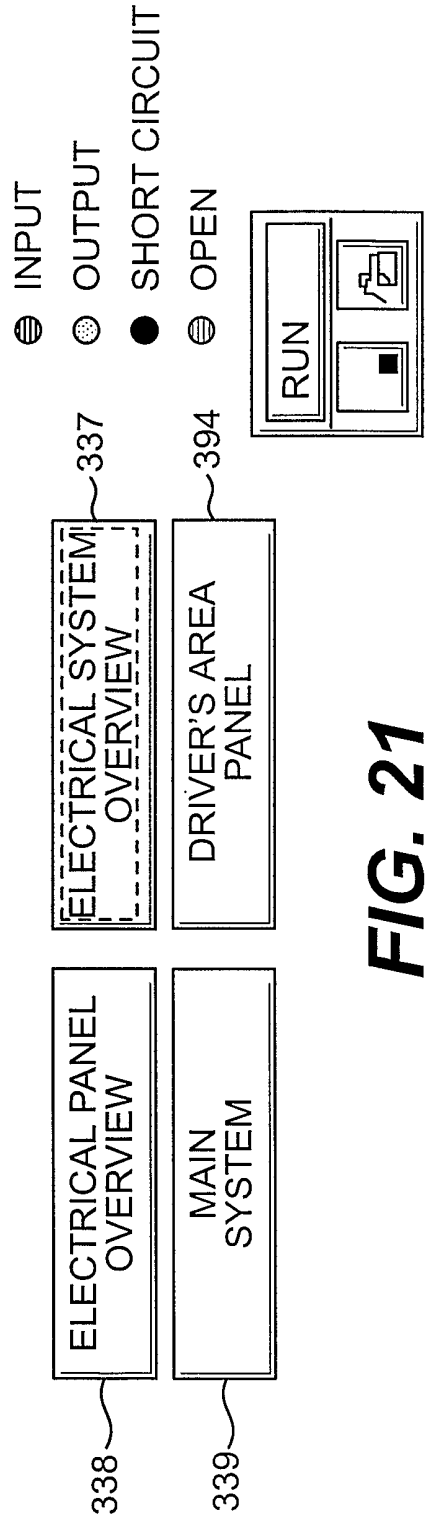
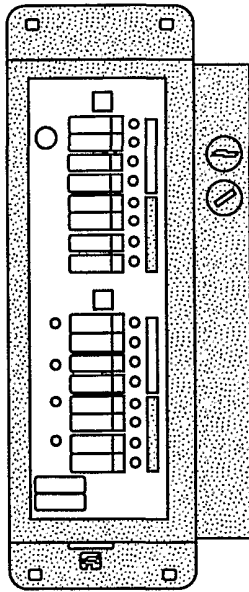


FIG. 21



- | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| N11:14/0 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/0 | <input type="radio"/> | W/C RAMP PUMP |
| N11:14/1 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/1 | <input type="radio"/> | RAMP STOW |
| N11:14/2 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/2 | <input type="radio"/> | SEC RAMP DEPLOY MV |
| N11:14/3 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/3 | <input type="radio"/> | MAIN RAMP DEPLOY |
| N11:14/4 | <input type="radio"/> | DEPLOY PROXIMITY SW | N10:8/4 | <input type="radio"/> | DRILL ENABLE |
| N11:14/5 | <input type="radio"/> | STOW PROXIMITY SWITCH | N10:8/5 | <input type="radio"/> | W/C RAMP & KNEELING BEEPER |
| N11:14/6 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/6 | <input type="radio"/> | RT HEADLIGHT LOW BEAM |
| N11:14/7 | <input type="radio"/> | NOT USED | N10:8/7 | <input type="radio"/> | RT HEADLIGHT HIGH BEAM |

- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
OVERVIEW

FRONT LOWER
PANEL

ELECTRICAL PANEL
OVERVIEW

MAIN
SYSTEM

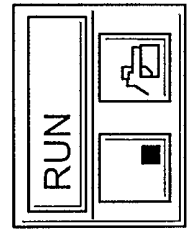
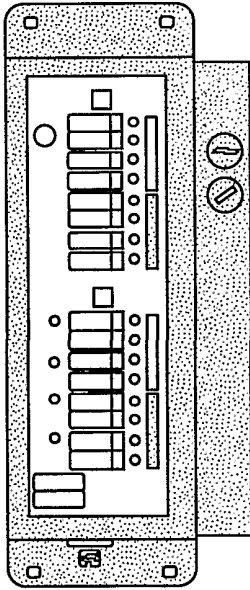


FIG. 22

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- N11:16/0 ○ WC RAMP DEPLOY
- N11:16/1 ○ WC RAMP STOW
- N11:16/2 ○ KNEELING RAISE SWITCH
- N11:16/3 ○ KNEELING LOWER SWITCH
- N11:16/4 ○ NOT USED
- N11:16/5 ○ DEFROSTER BOOSTER PUMP
- N11:16/6 ○ HORN SWITCH
- N11:16/7 ○ NOT USED
- N10:9/0 ● RIGHT FRONT TURN LIGHT
- N10:9/1 ● ENTRANCE CURB & INT. LIGHT
- N10:9/2 ○ FRONT ROUTE SIGN
- N10:9/3 ○ NOT USED
- N10:9/4 ● WINDSHIELD WIPER POWER
- N10:9/5 ○ PANEL LIGHT
- N10:9/6 ○ NOT USED
- N10:9/7 ○ DEFROSTER CONTROL POWER

- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

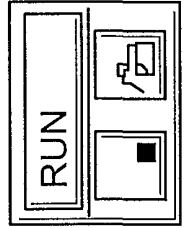
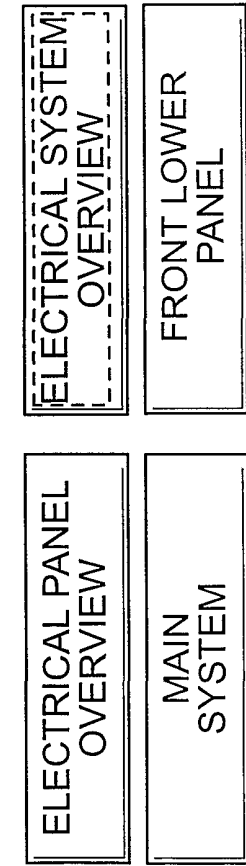
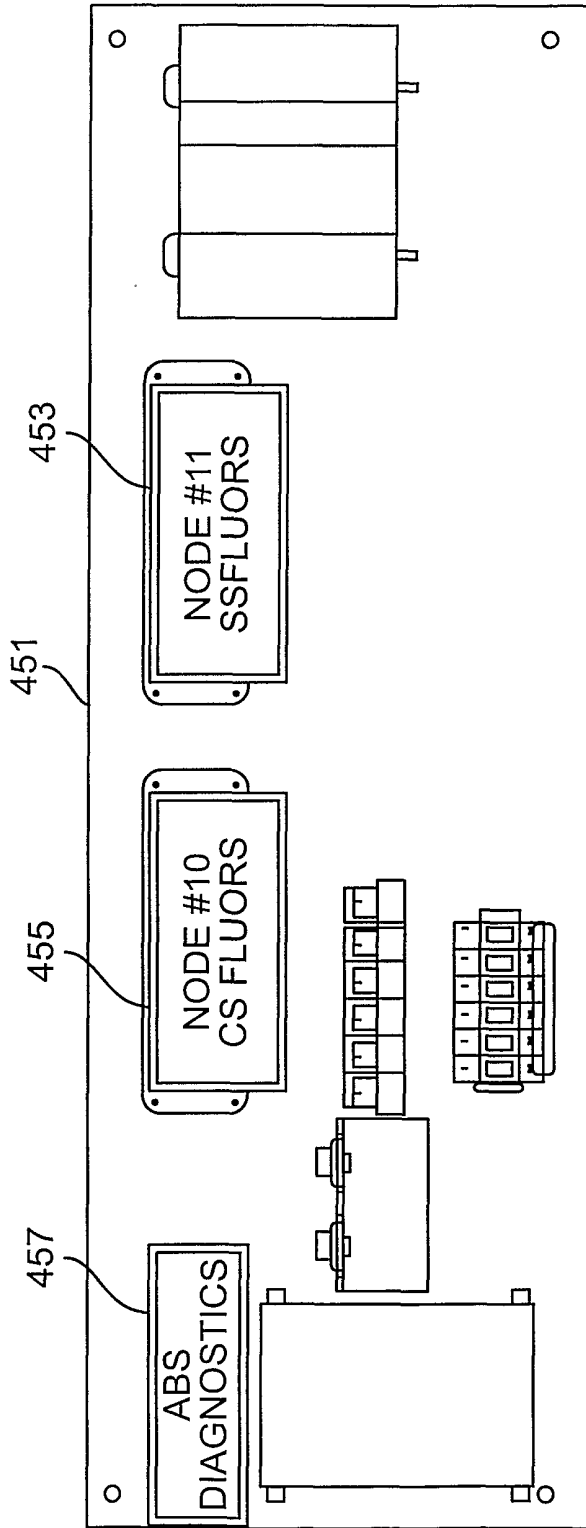


FIG. 23

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ELECTRICAL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

ELECTRICAL PANEL OVERVIEW

MAIN SYSTEM

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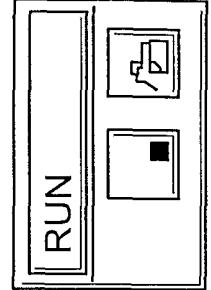
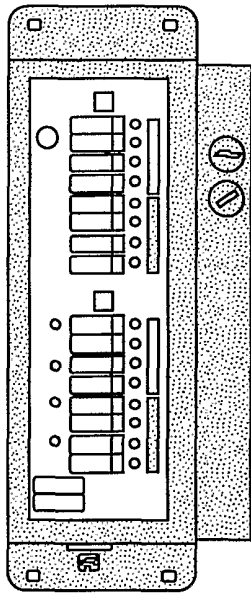


FIG. 24



- N11:18/0 NOT USED
- N11:18/1 NOT USED
- N11:18/2 NOT USED
- N11:18/3 NOT USED
- N11:18/4 NOT USED
- N11:18/5 NOT USED
- N11:18/6 NOT USED
- N11:18/7 NOT USED

- N10:10/0 NOT USED
- N10:10/1 FL_LT_1&2_CS
- N10:10/2 FLUORS LIGHT NO. 1 & 2
- N10:10/3 FLUORS LIGHT NO. 3 & 4
- N10:10/4 FLUORS LIGHT NO. 5 & 6
- N10:10/5 FLUORS LIGHT NO. 7 & 8
- N10:10/6 SERVO POWER SS
- N10:10/7 SERVO POWER CS

ELECTRICAL PANEL
OVERVIEW

MAIN
SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
OVERVIEW

CURBSIDE
PANEL

- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

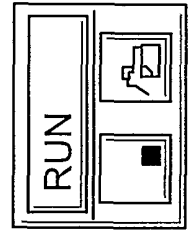
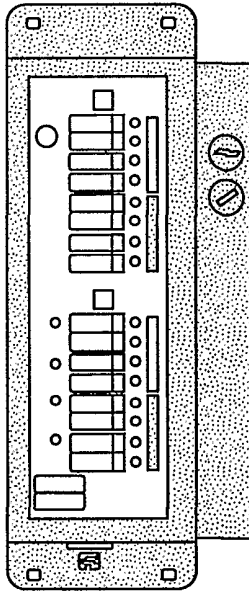


FIG. 25



N11:20/0 ○ STOP REQUEST CS2
 N11:20/1 ○ NOT USED
 N11:20/2 ○ NOT USED
 N11:20/3 ○ NOT USED
 N11:20/4 ○ TK_BP_REQ
 N11:20/5 ○ AC FAILED
 N11:20/6 ○ NOT USED
 N11:20/7 ○ NOT USED

N10:11/0 ⊕ ABS IGNITION
 N10:11/1 ⊙ FL_LT_TRANS
 N10:11/2 ○ FLUORS LIGHT NO. 1 & 2 SS
 N10:11/3 ○ FLUORS LIGHT NO. 3 & 4 SS
 N10:11/4 ○ FLUORS LIGHT NO. 5 & 6 SS
 N10:11/5 ○ FLUORS LIGHT NO. 7 & 8 SS
 N10:11/6 ○ TK AUTO
 N10:11/7 ○ TK POWER

ELECTRICAL PANEL
OVERVIEW

MAIN
SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
OVERVIEW

CURBSIDE
PANEL

- ⊕ INPUT
- ⊙ OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- ⊖ OPEN

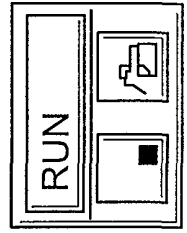
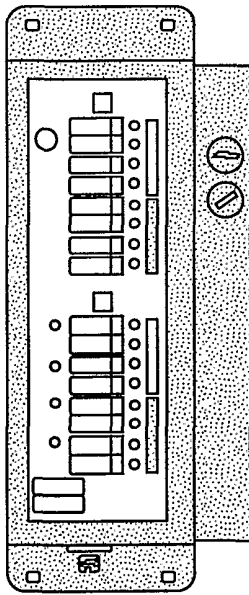


FIG. 26



N11:22/0	○	EXIT DOOR OPEN LS	N10:12/0	○	EXTRA DOOR LAMPS
N11:22/1	⊗	EXIT DOOR FULL CLOSED	N10:12/1	○	NOT USED
N11:22/2	○	NOT USED	N10:12/2	○	NOT USED
N11:22/3	○	NOT USED	N10:12/3	⊗	RIGHT HAND SIDE 2
N11:22/4	○	SENSITIVE EDGE	N10:12/4	⊗	BRAKE INTERLOCK MV
N11:22/5	○	NOT USED	N10:12/5	○	NOT USED
N11:22/6	○	NOT USED	N10:12/6	⊗	EXIT DOOR MV
N11:22/7	○	REAR STOP PRESSURE SW	N10:12/7	○	AIR DRYER

- ⊗ INPUT
- ⊗ OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- ⊗ OPEN

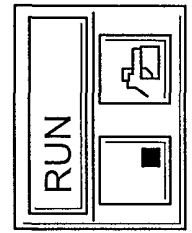
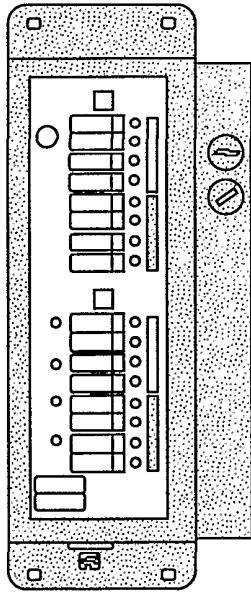


FIG. 27



- | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| N11:24/0 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ENTRANCE DOOR CLOSED | N10:13/0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ENT. DOOR LAMP RWD |
| N11:24/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ENTRANCE DOOR OPEN | N10:13/1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | RH S1 REARWARD TS |
| N11:24/2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED | N10:13/2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | KNEELING LAMP |
| N11:24/3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | STOP REQUEST | N10:13/3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | RH S1 FORWARD TS |
| N11:24/4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | W/C STOP REQUEST#1 | N10:13/4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ENTRANCE DOOR OPEN MV |
| N11:24/5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED | N10:13/5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ENTRANCE DOOR CLOSED MV |
| N11:24/6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED | N10:13/6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED |
| N11:24/7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED | N10:13/7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT USED |

- INPUT
- OUTPUT
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- OPEN

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
OVERVIEW

ELECTRICAL PANEL
OVERVIEW

MAIN
SYSTEM

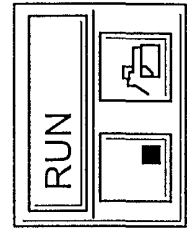


FIG. 28

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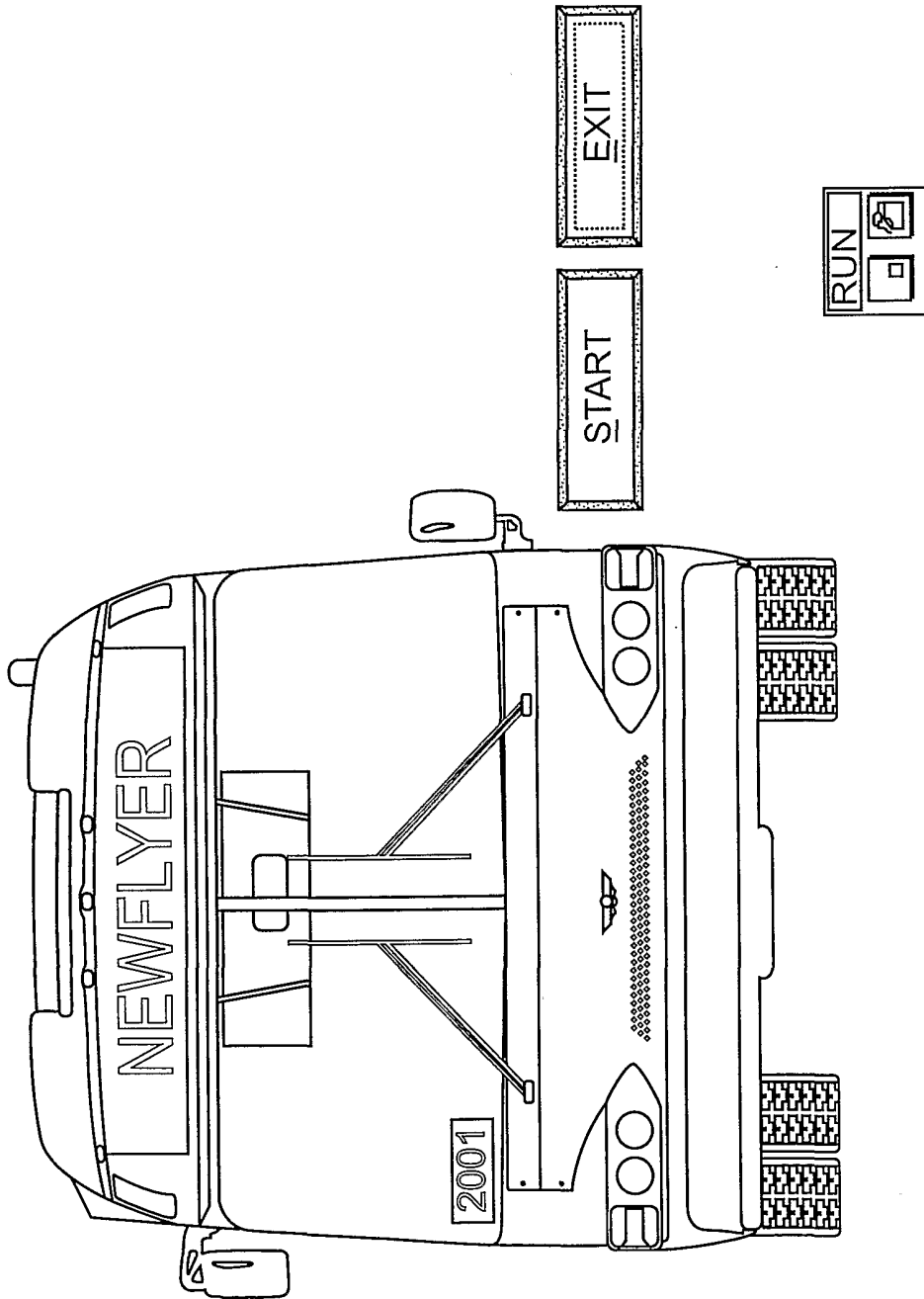


FIG. 29

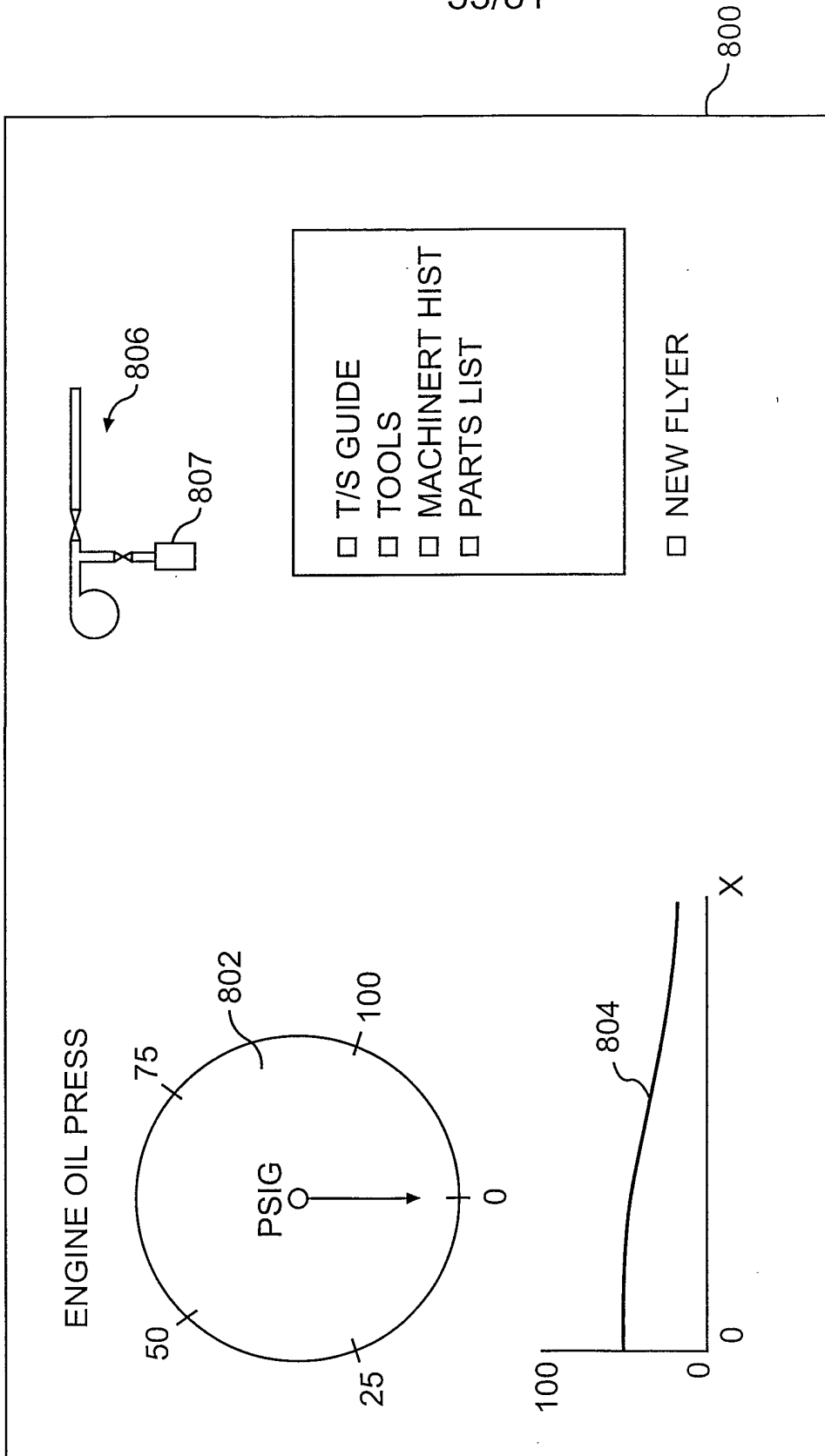


FIG. 30

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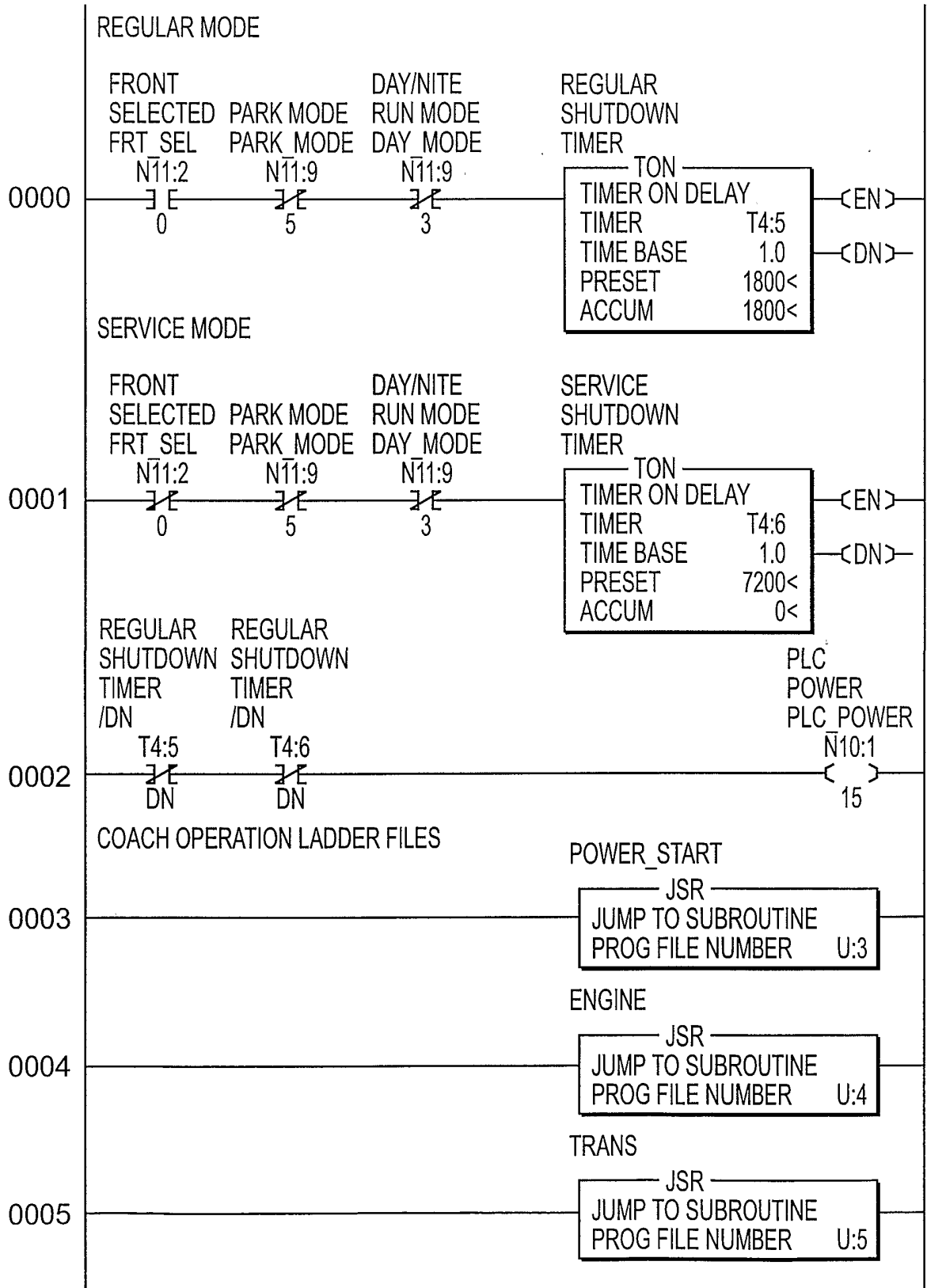


FIG. 31a

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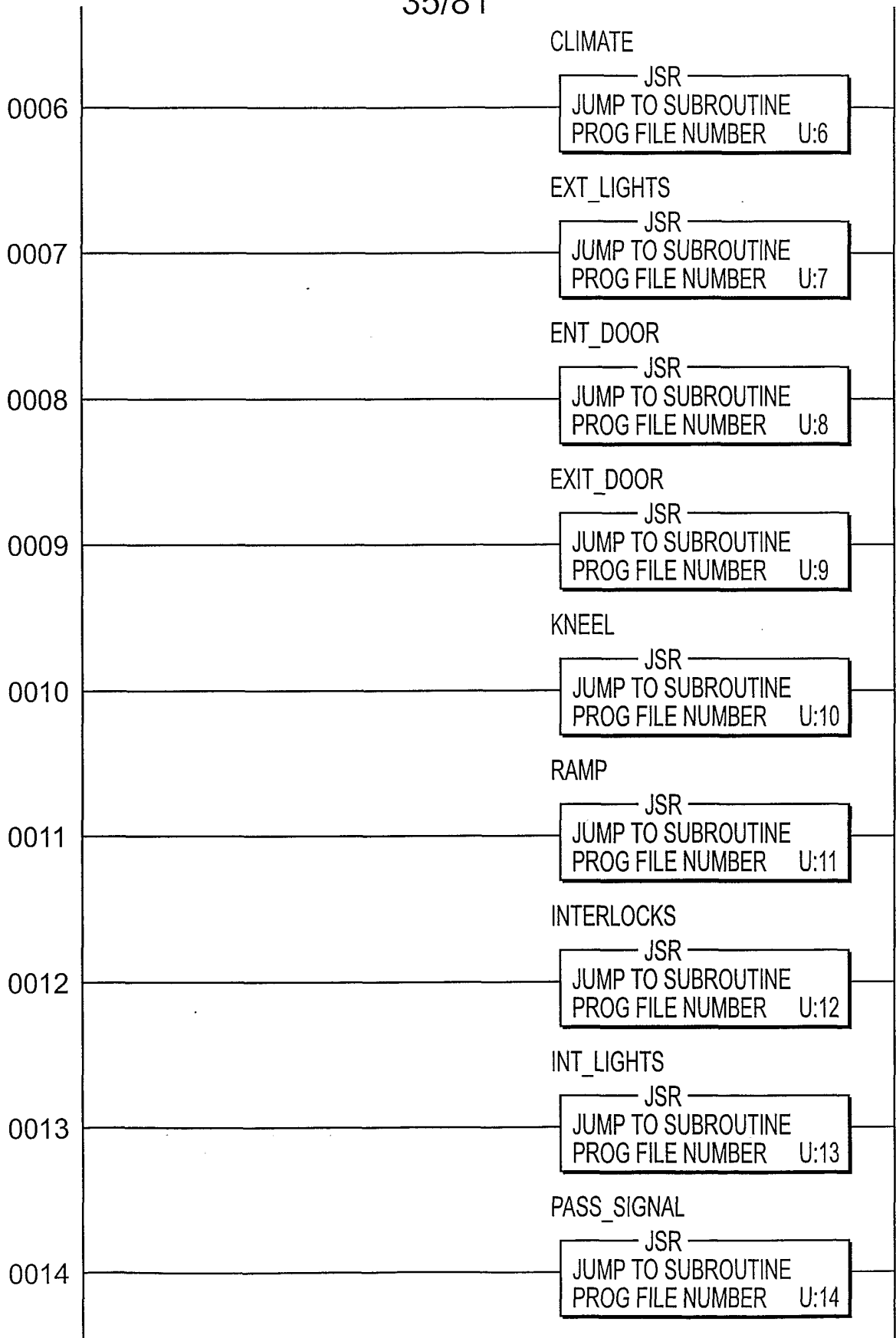


FIG. 31b

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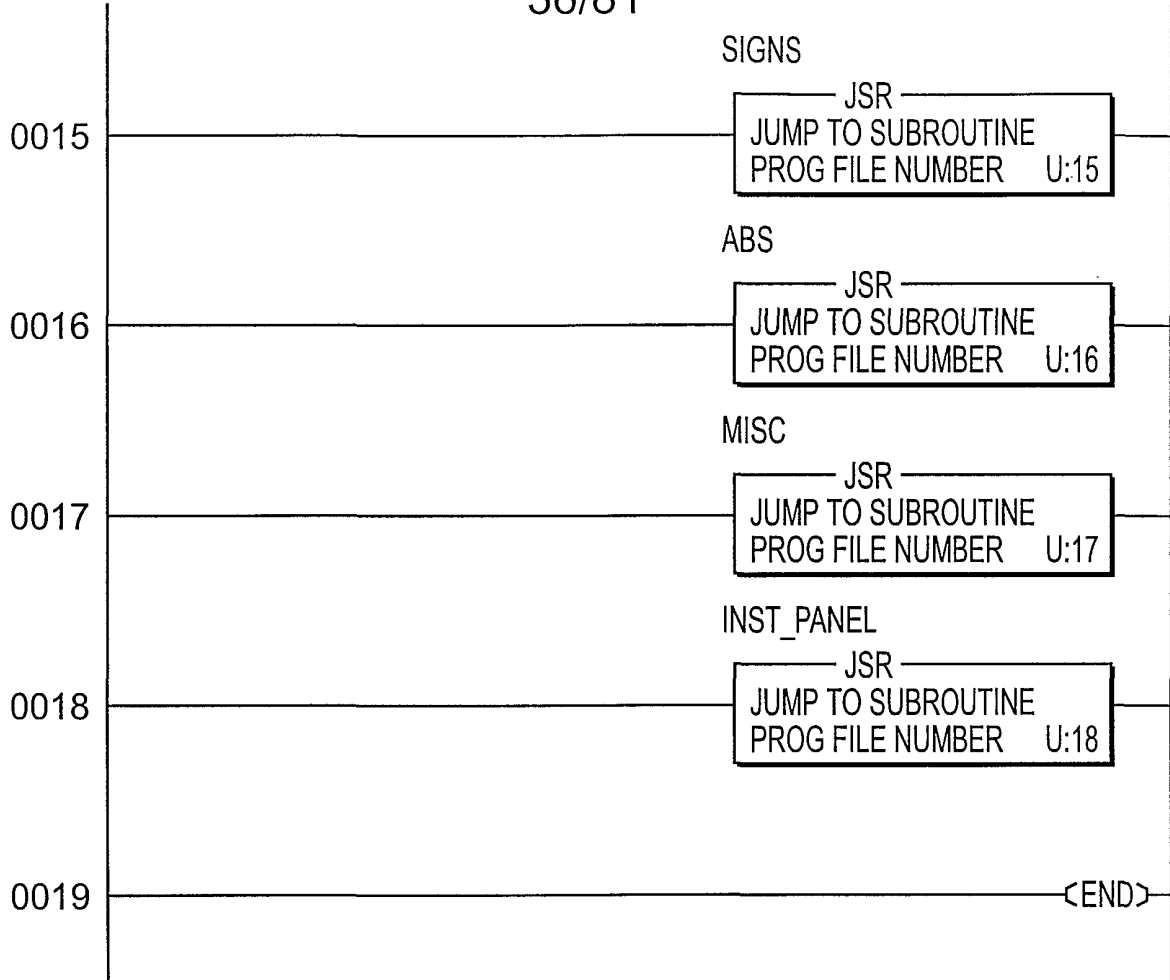


FIG. 31c

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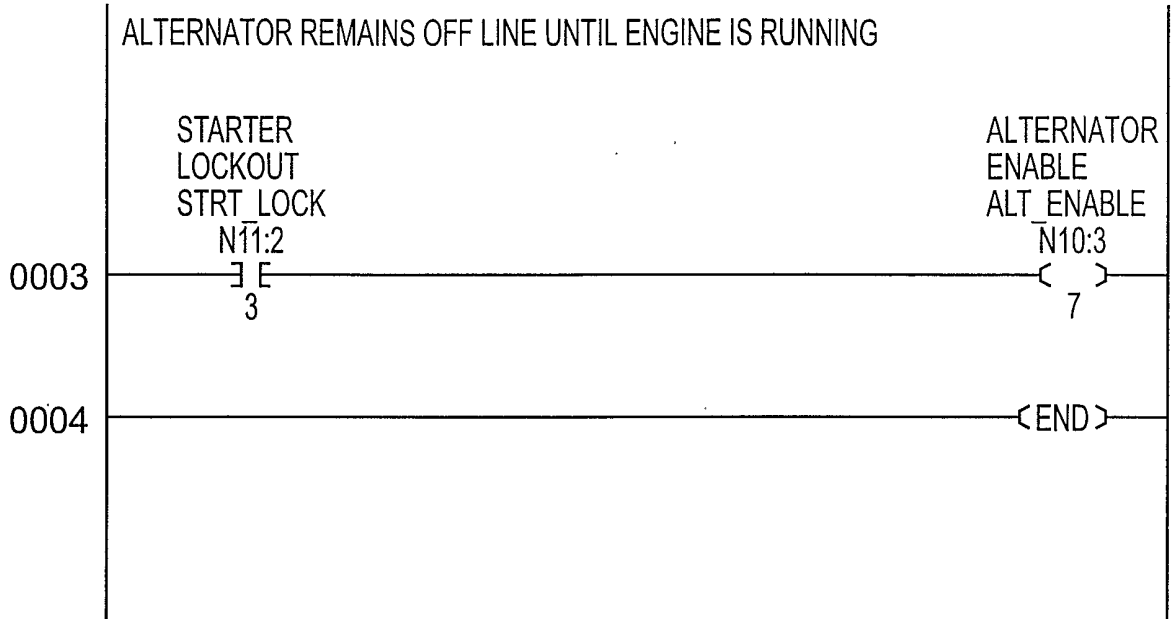


FIG. 32b

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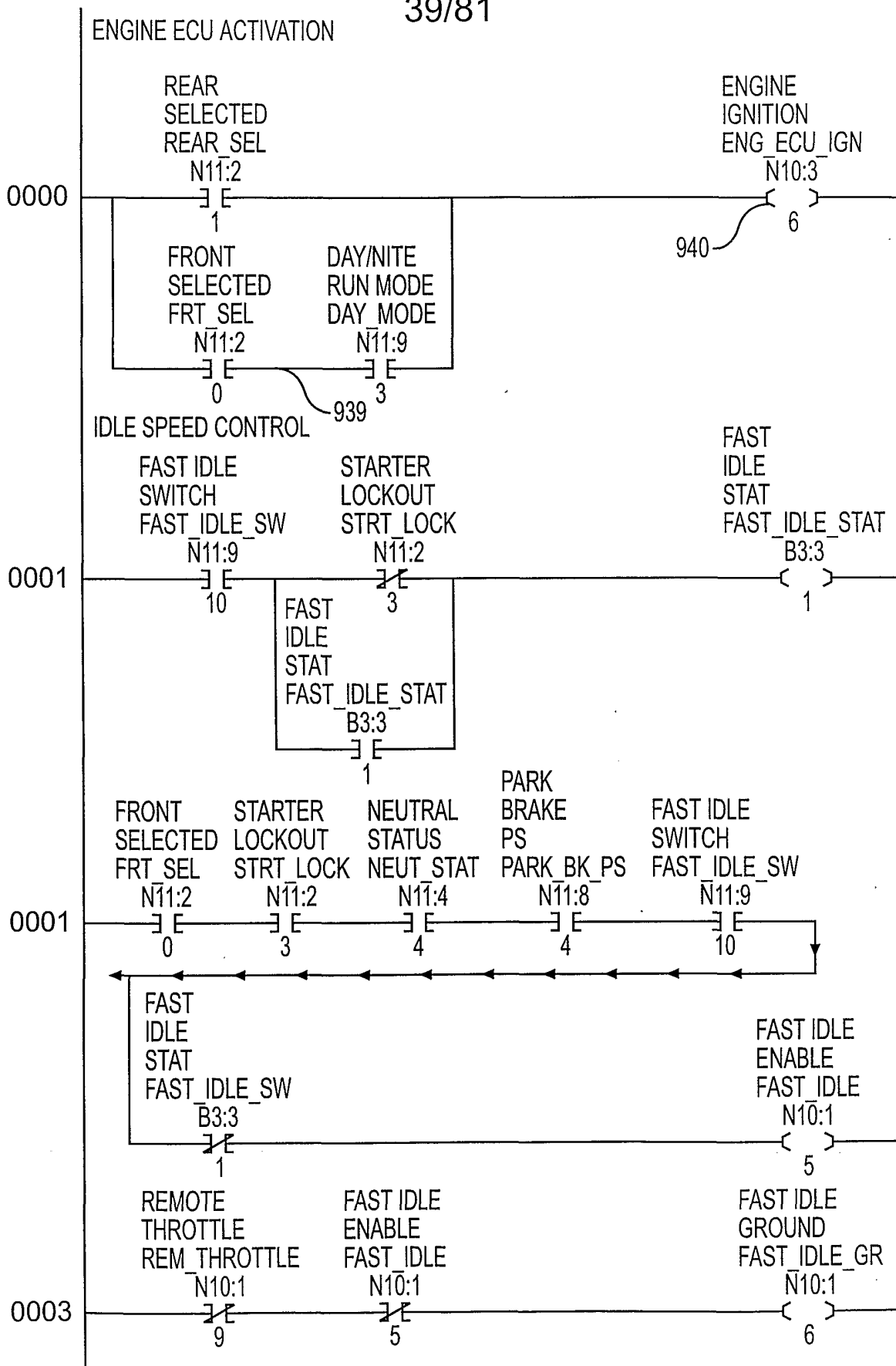


FIG. 33a

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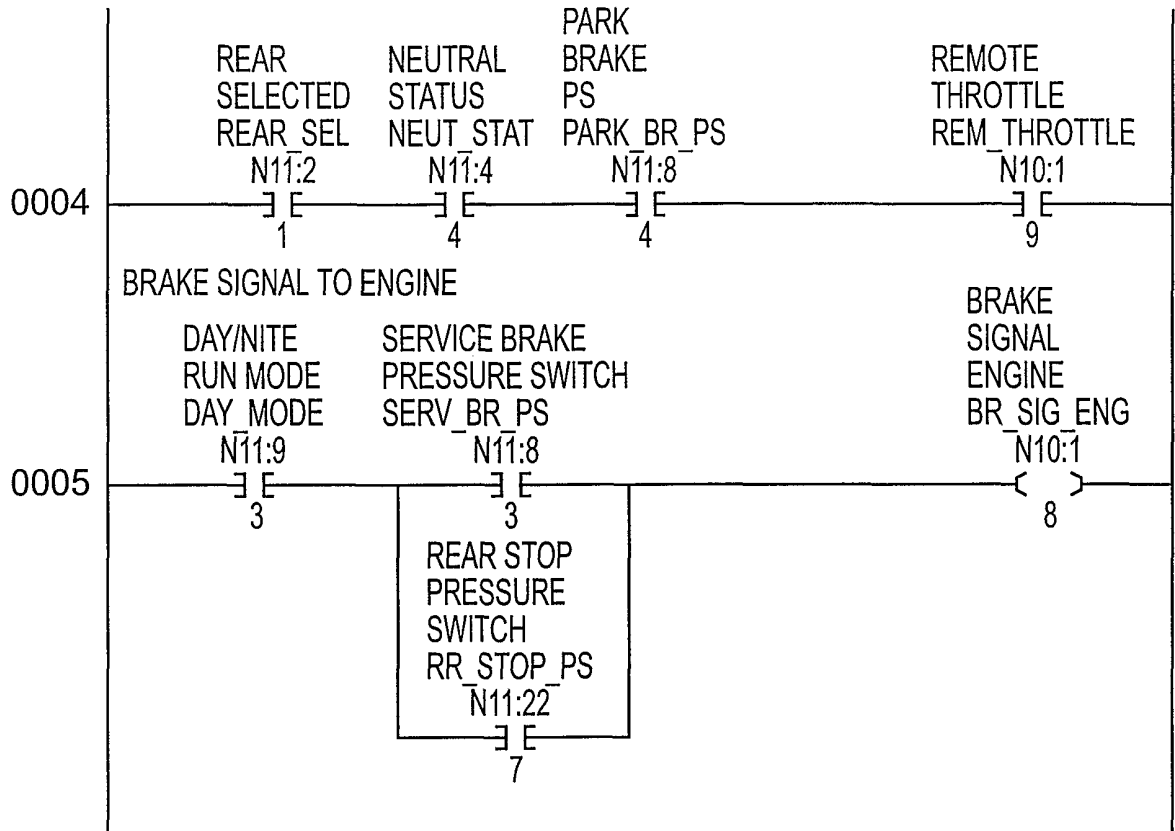


FIG. 33b

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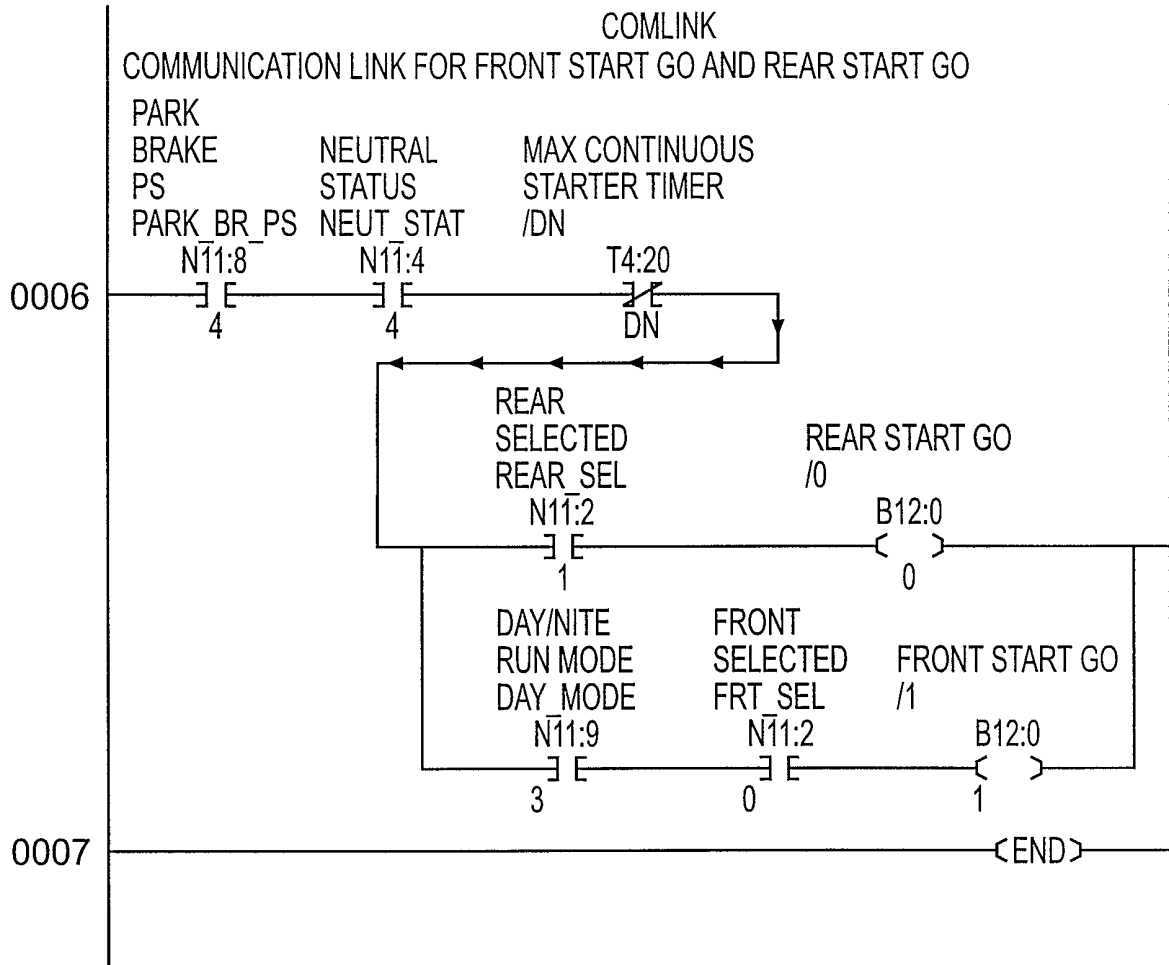


FIG. 33c

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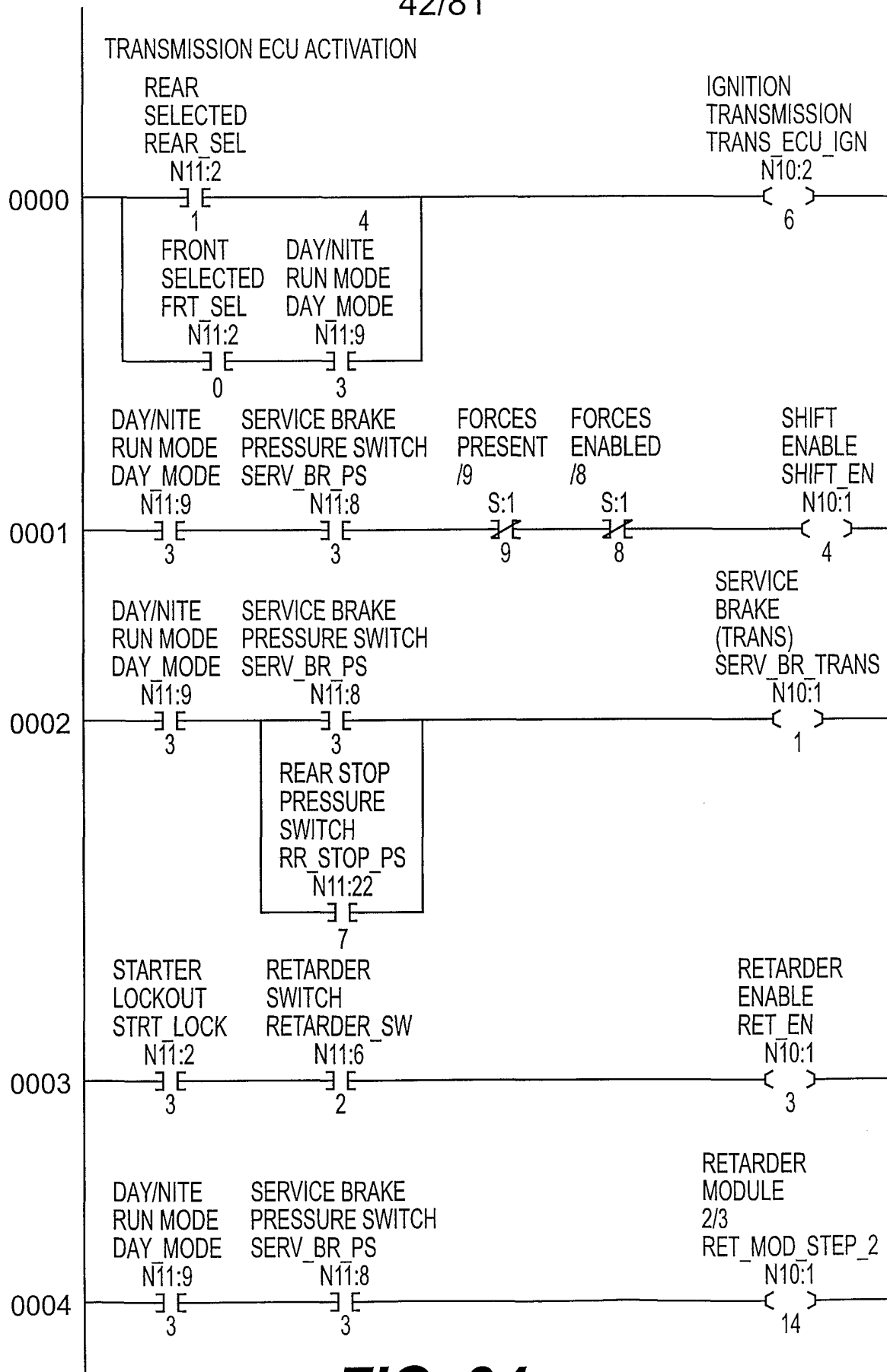


FIG. 34a

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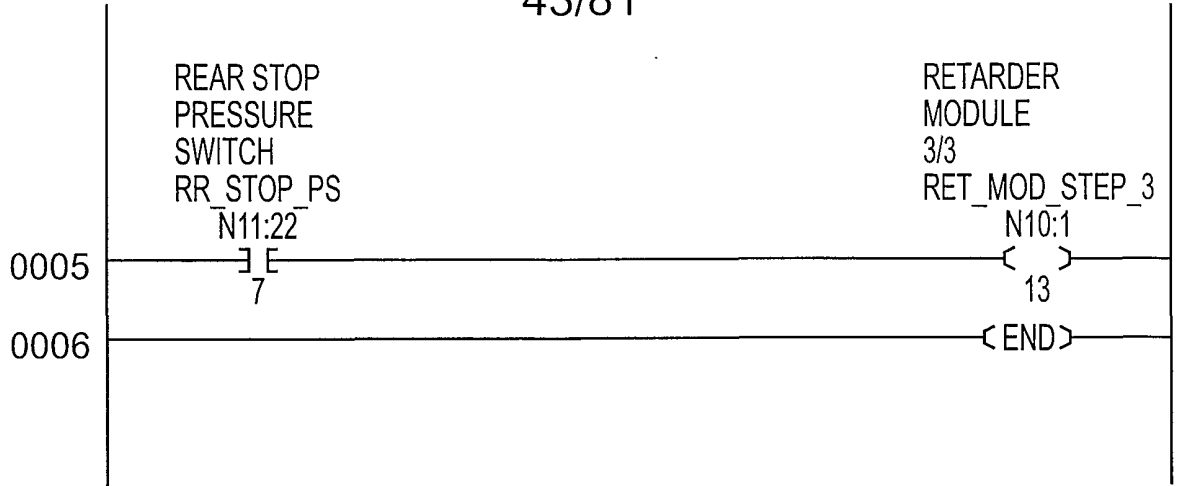


FIG. 34b

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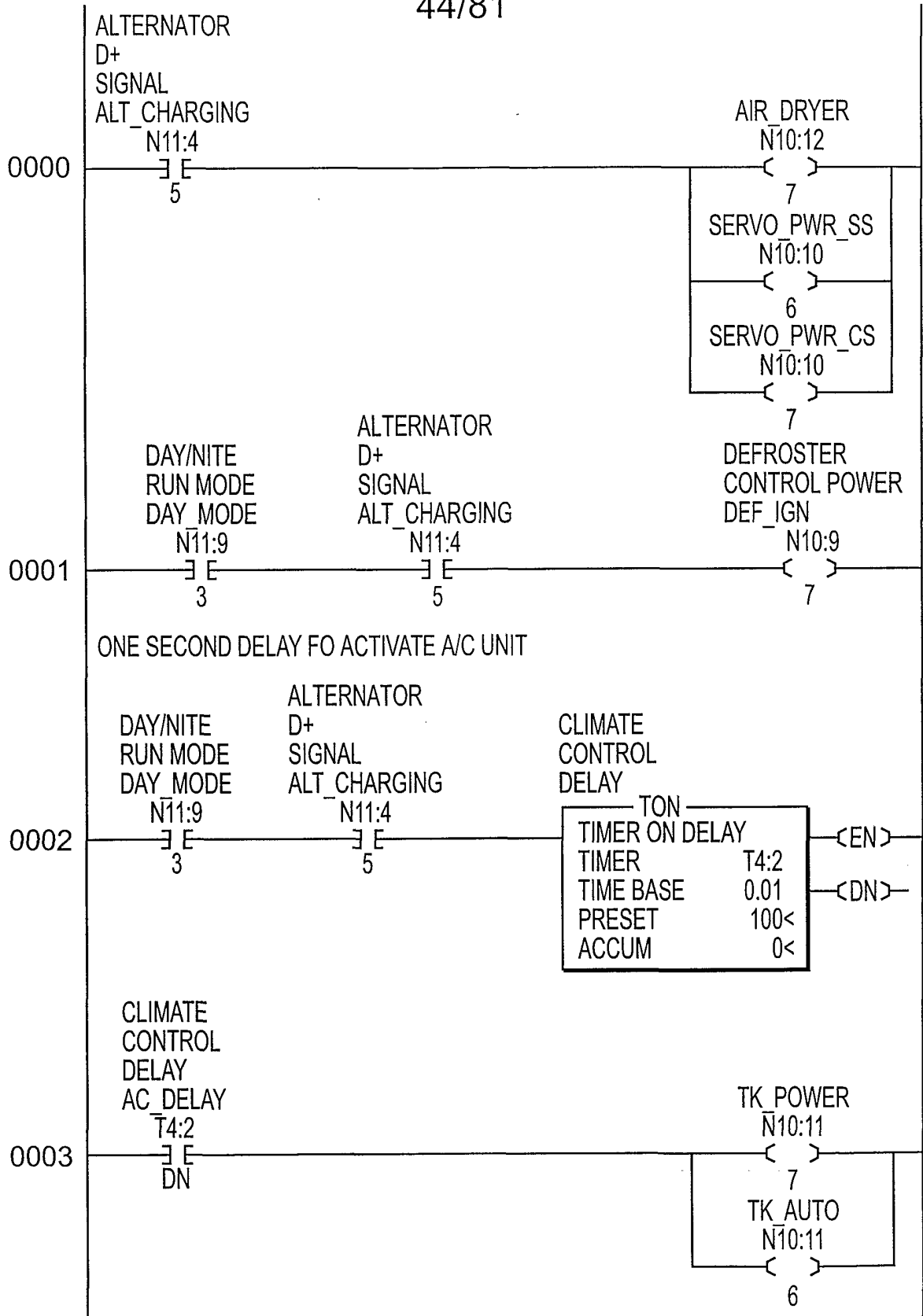


FIG. 35a

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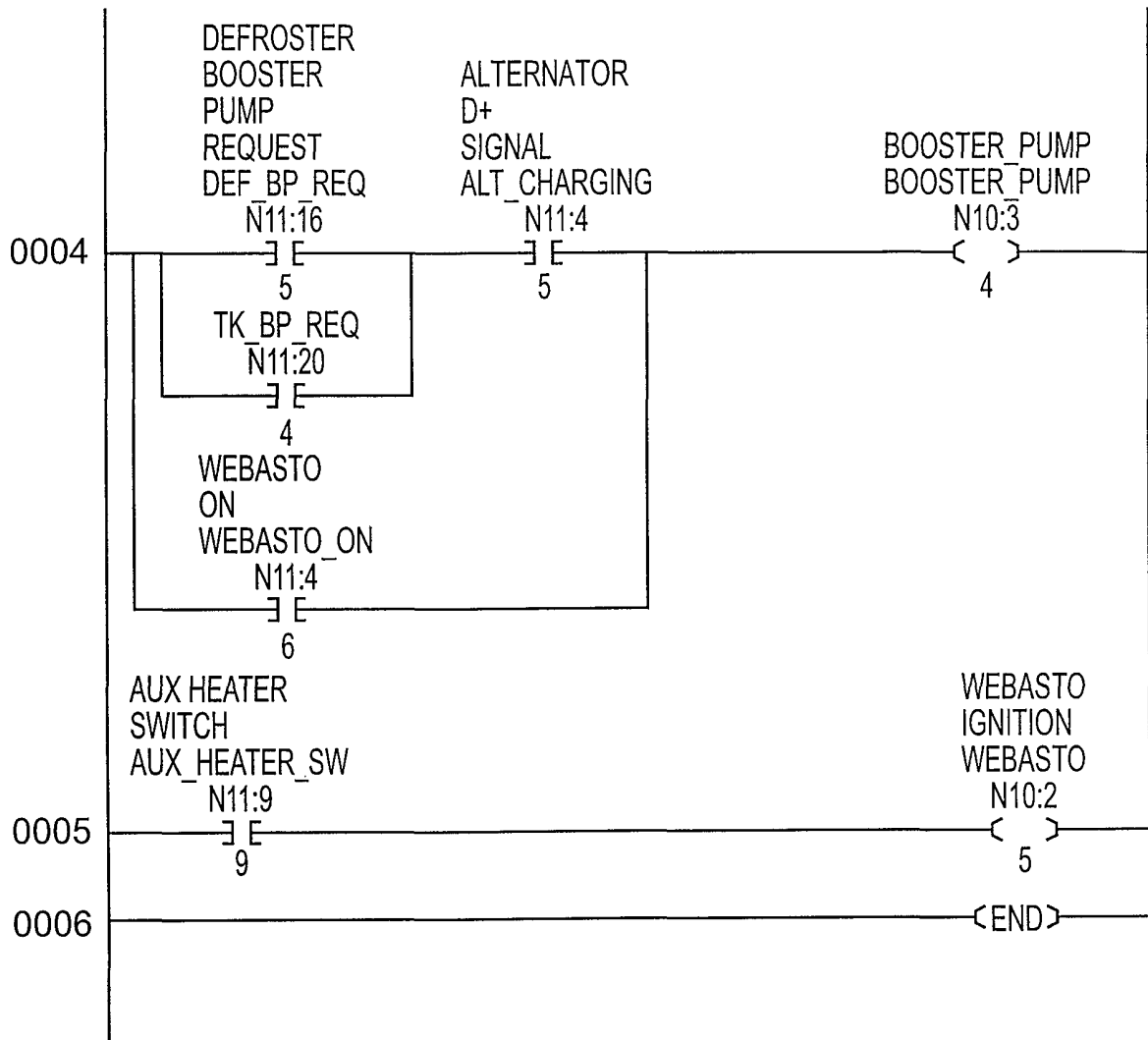


FIG. 35b

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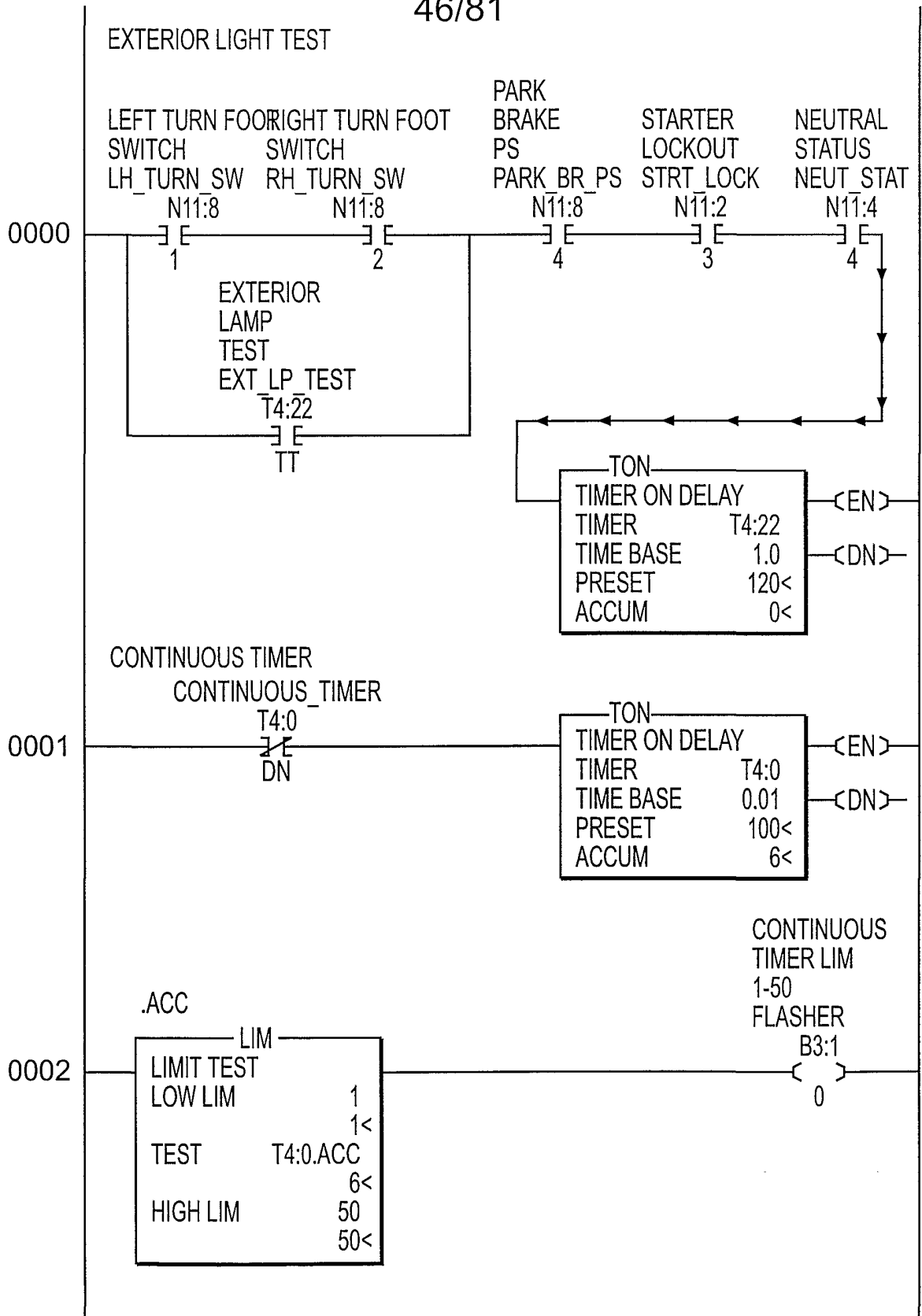


FIG. 36a

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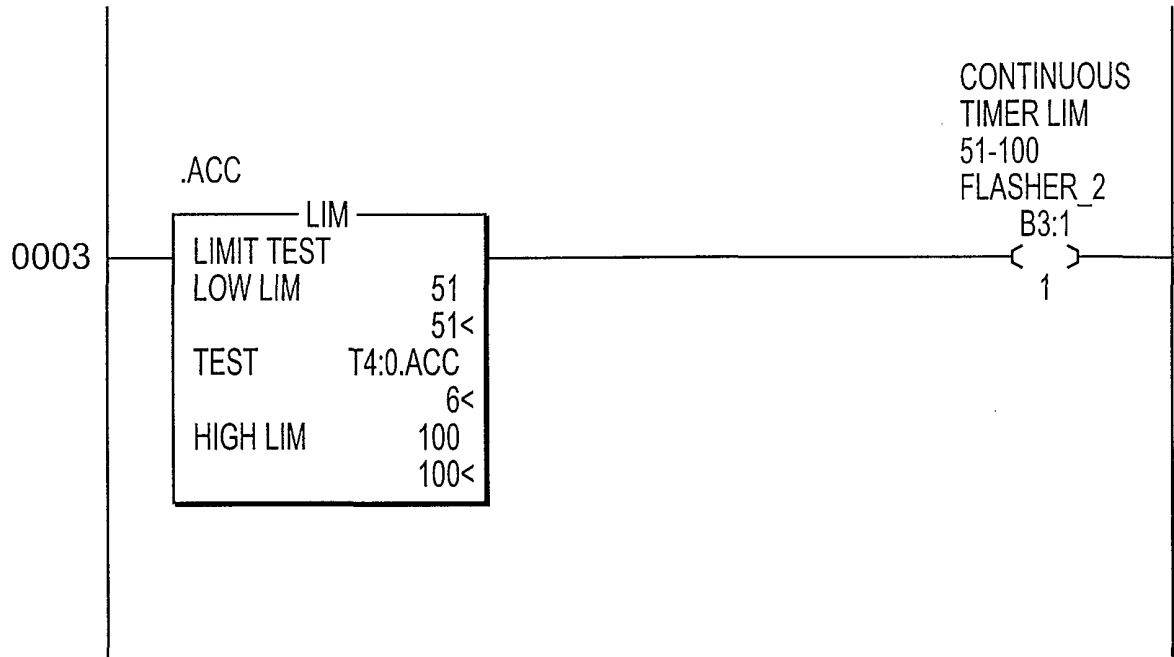


FIG. 36b

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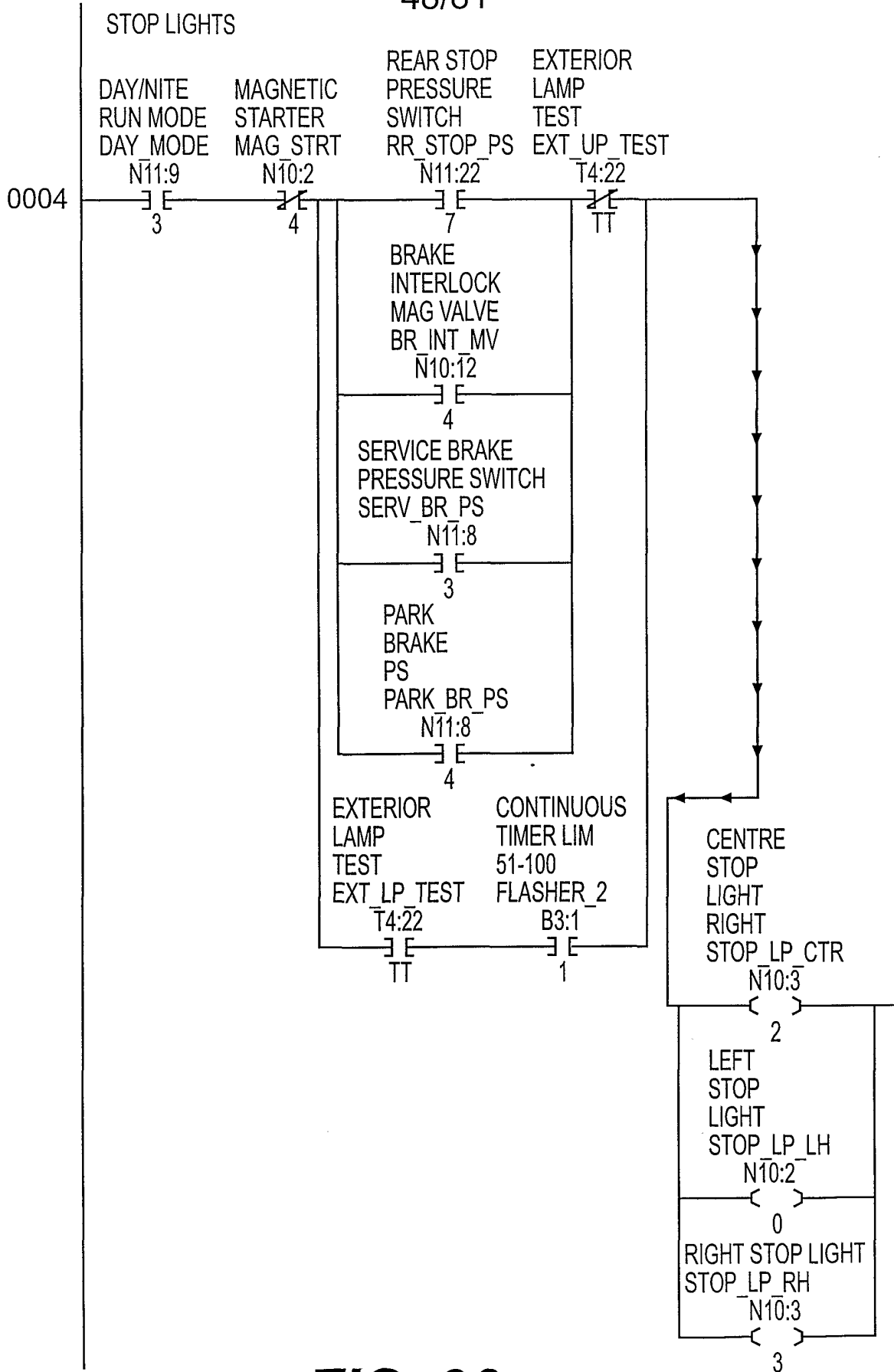


FIG. 36c

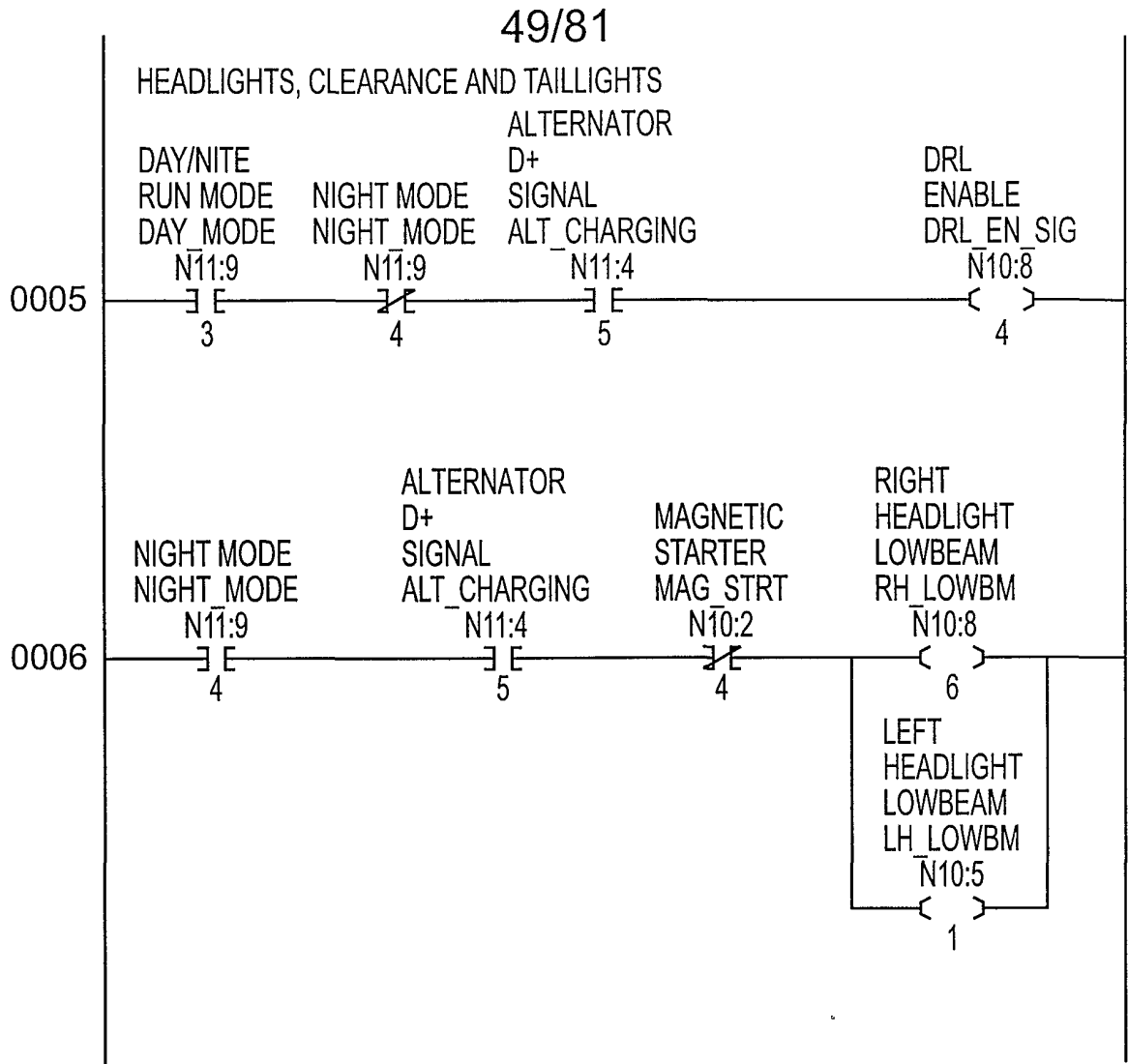


FIG. 36d

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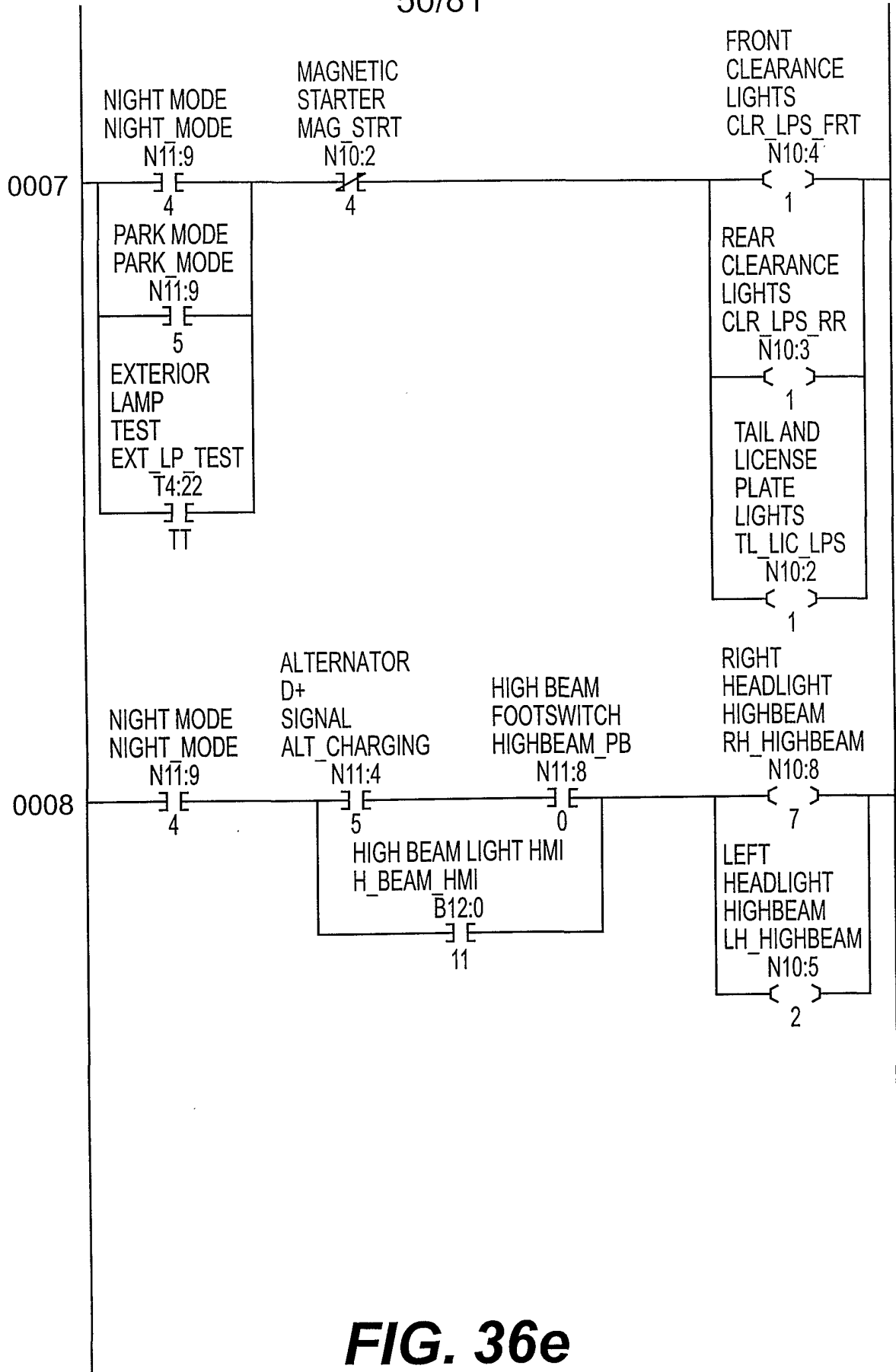


FIG. 36e

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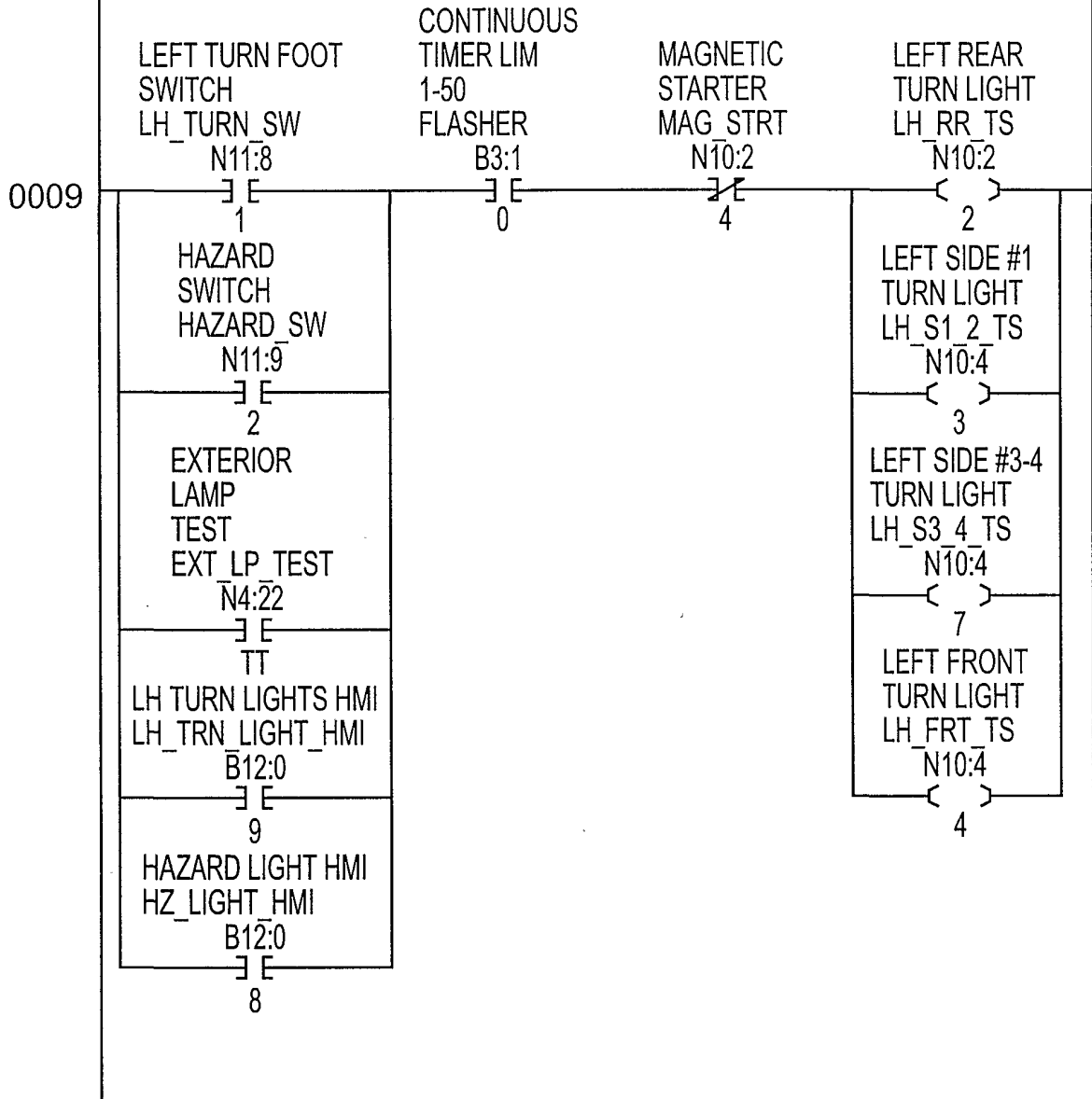


FIG. 36f

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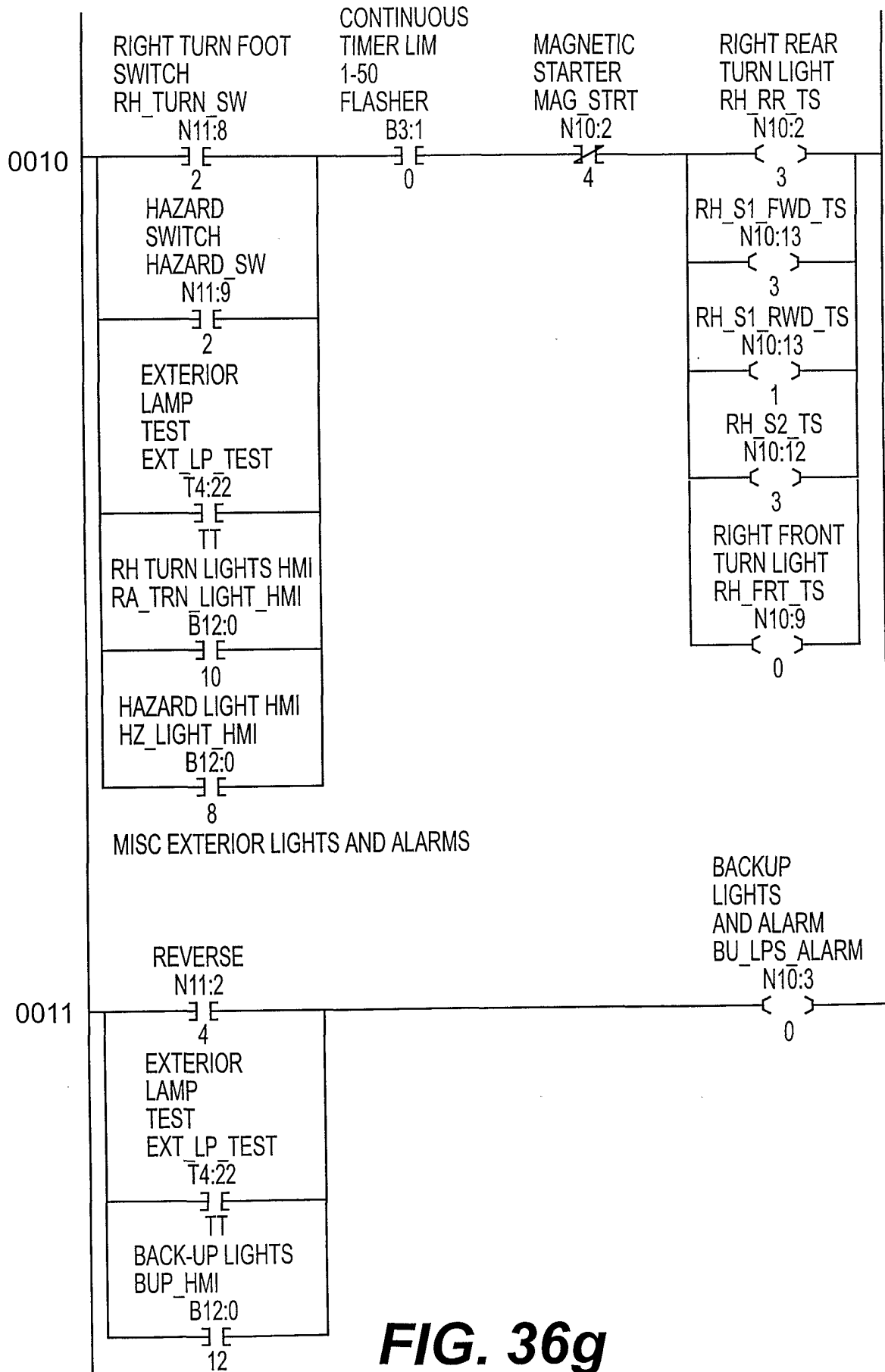


FIG. 36g

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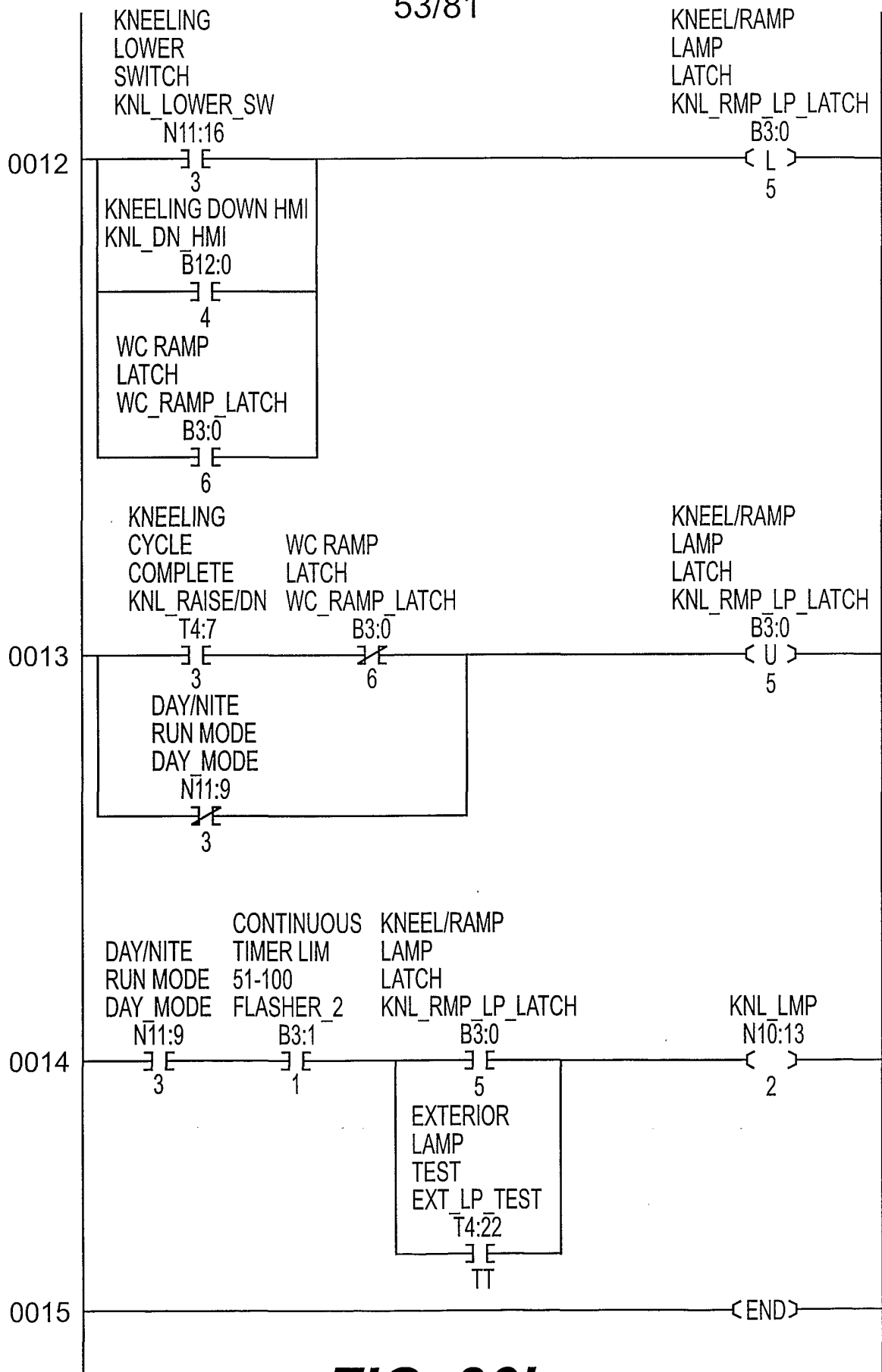


FIG. 36h

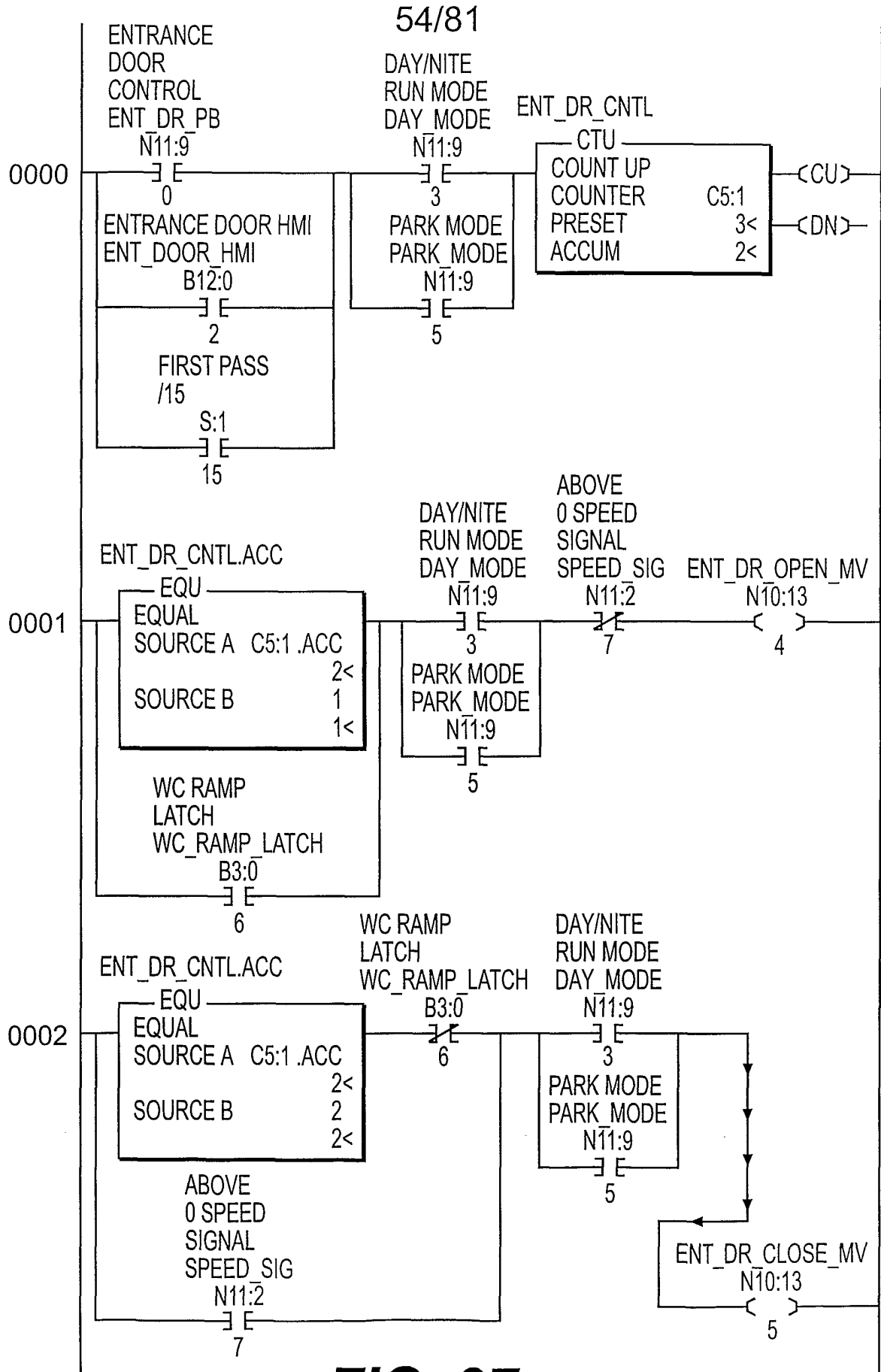


FIG. 37a

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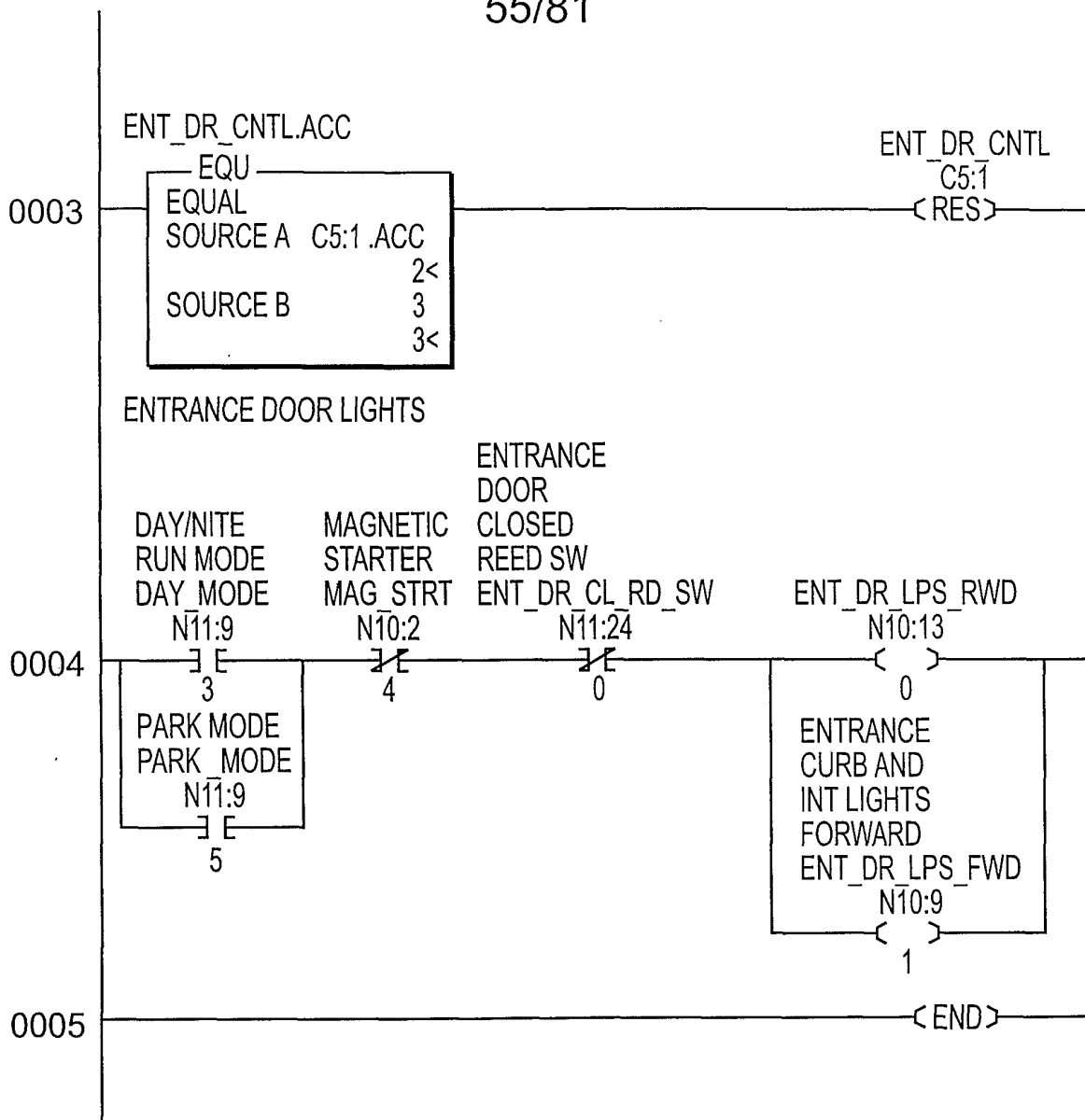


FIG. 37b

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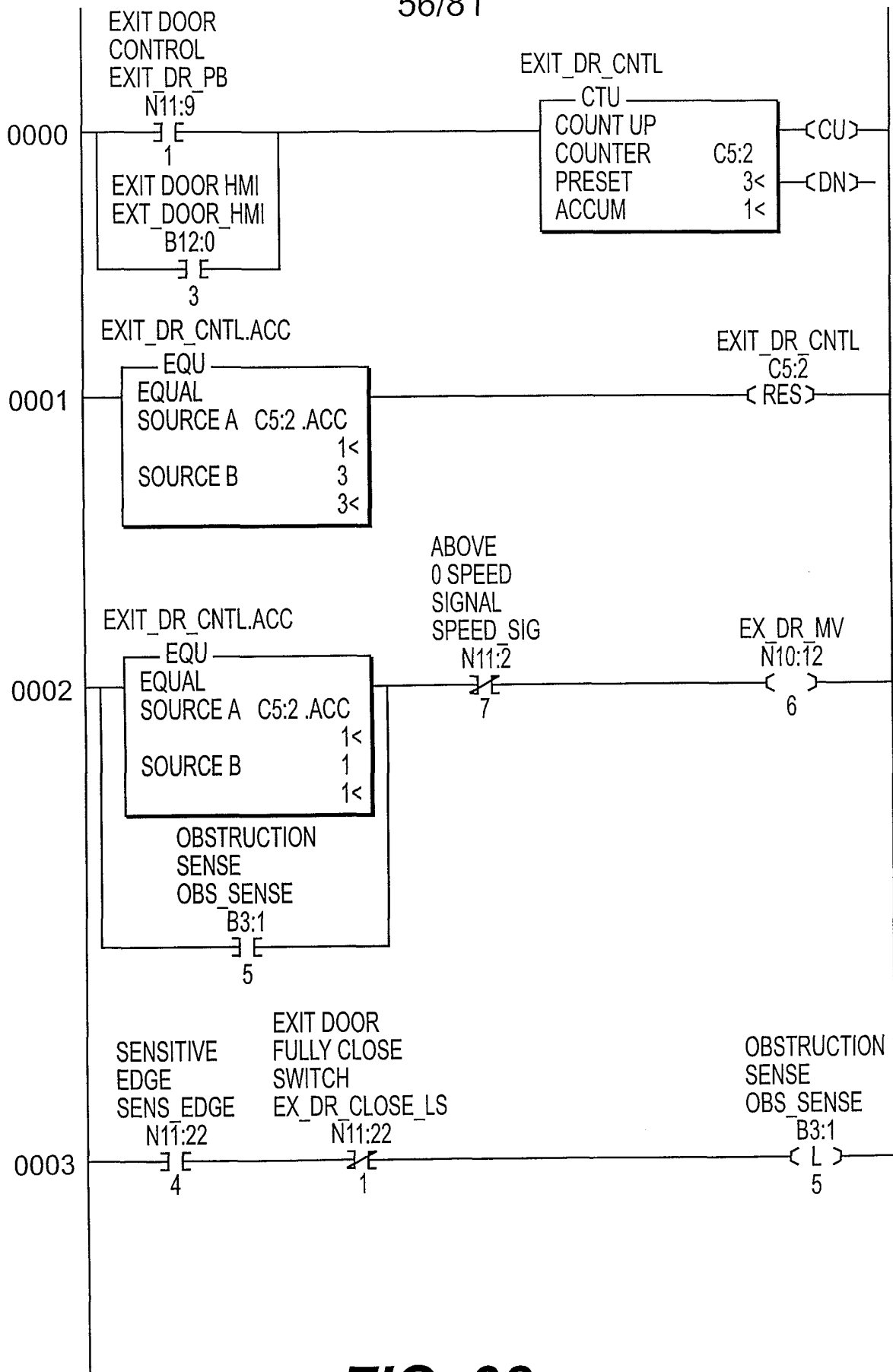


FIG. 38a

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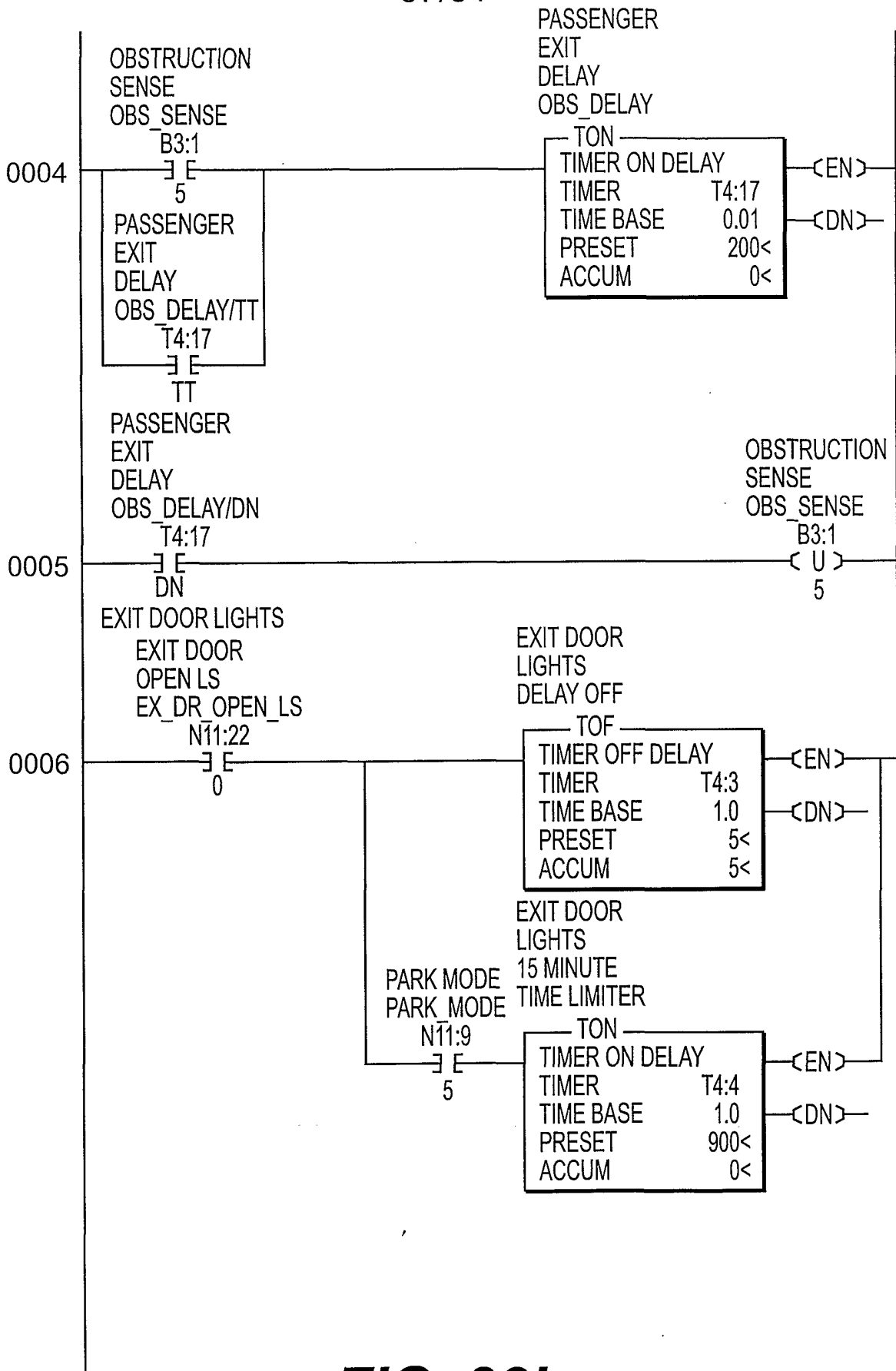


FIG. 38b

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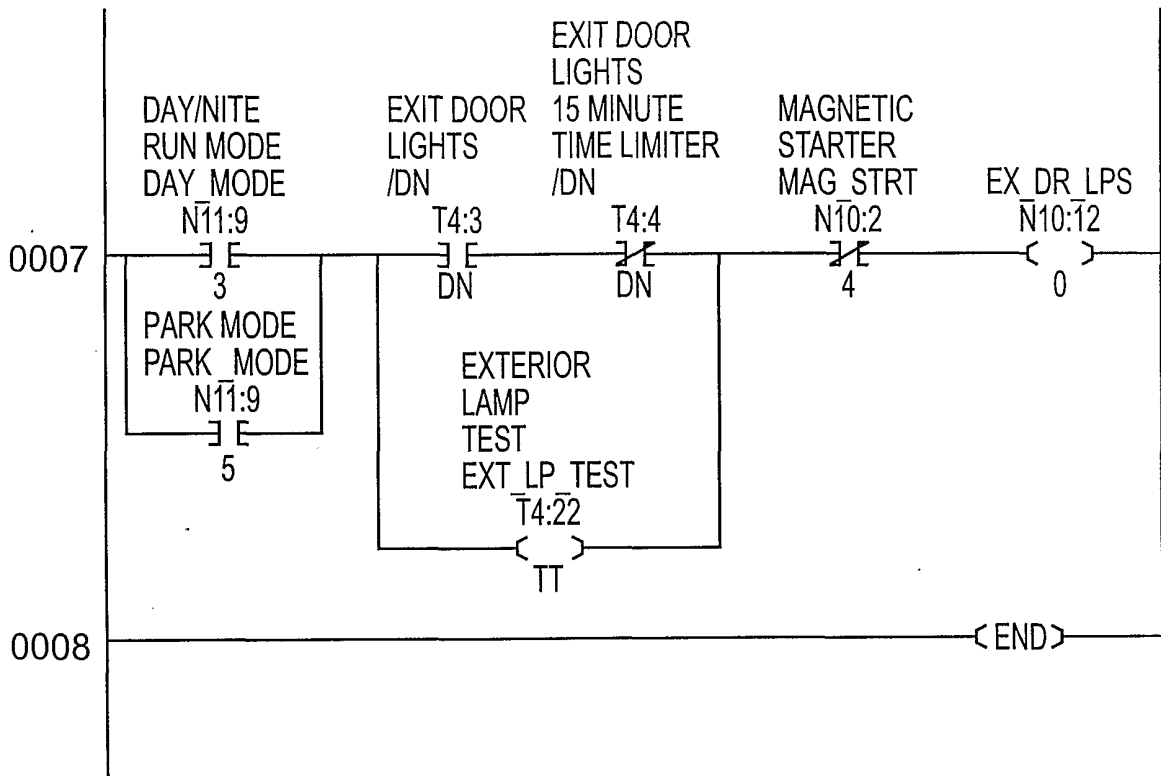


FIG. 38c

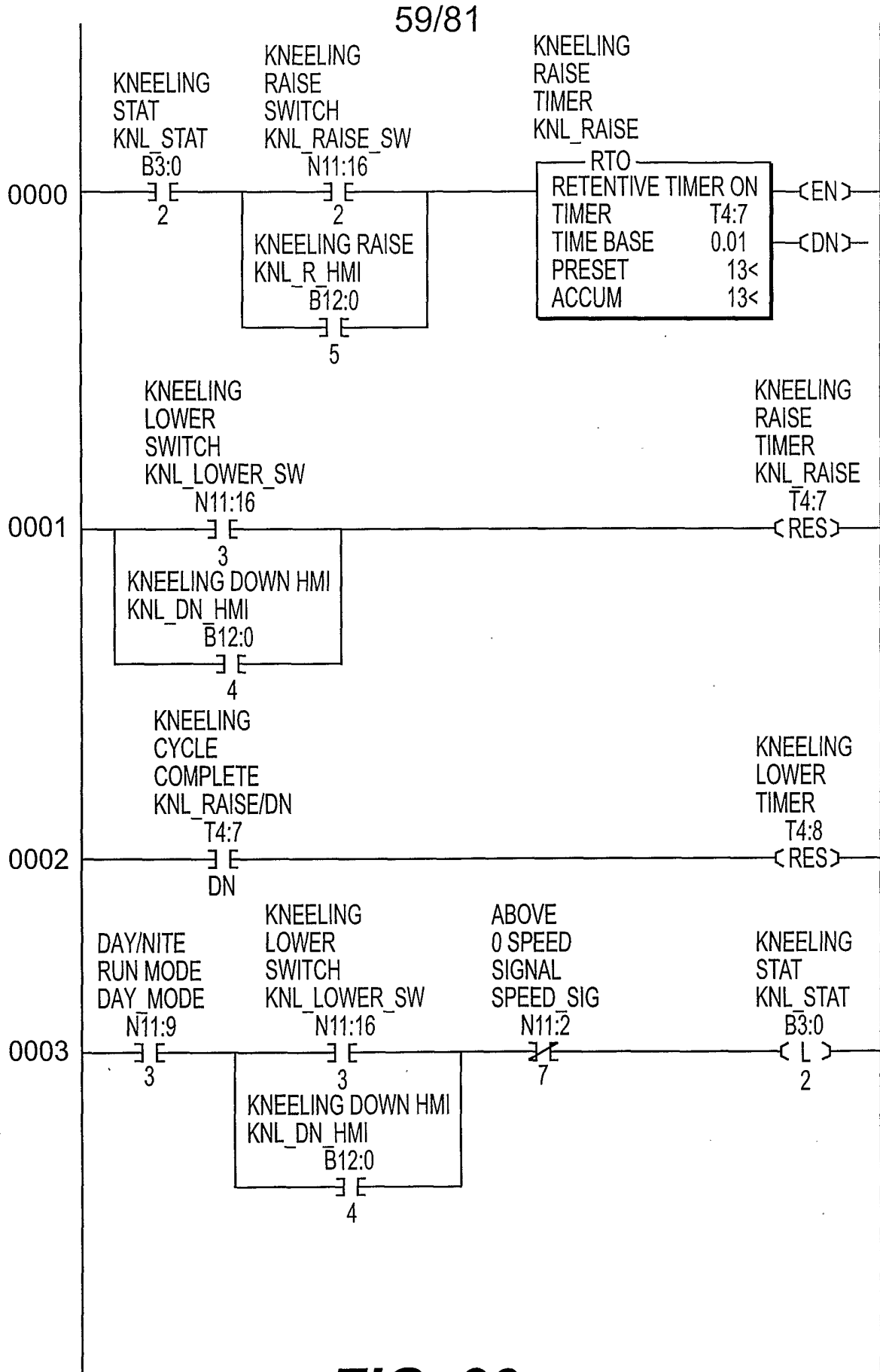


FIG. 39a

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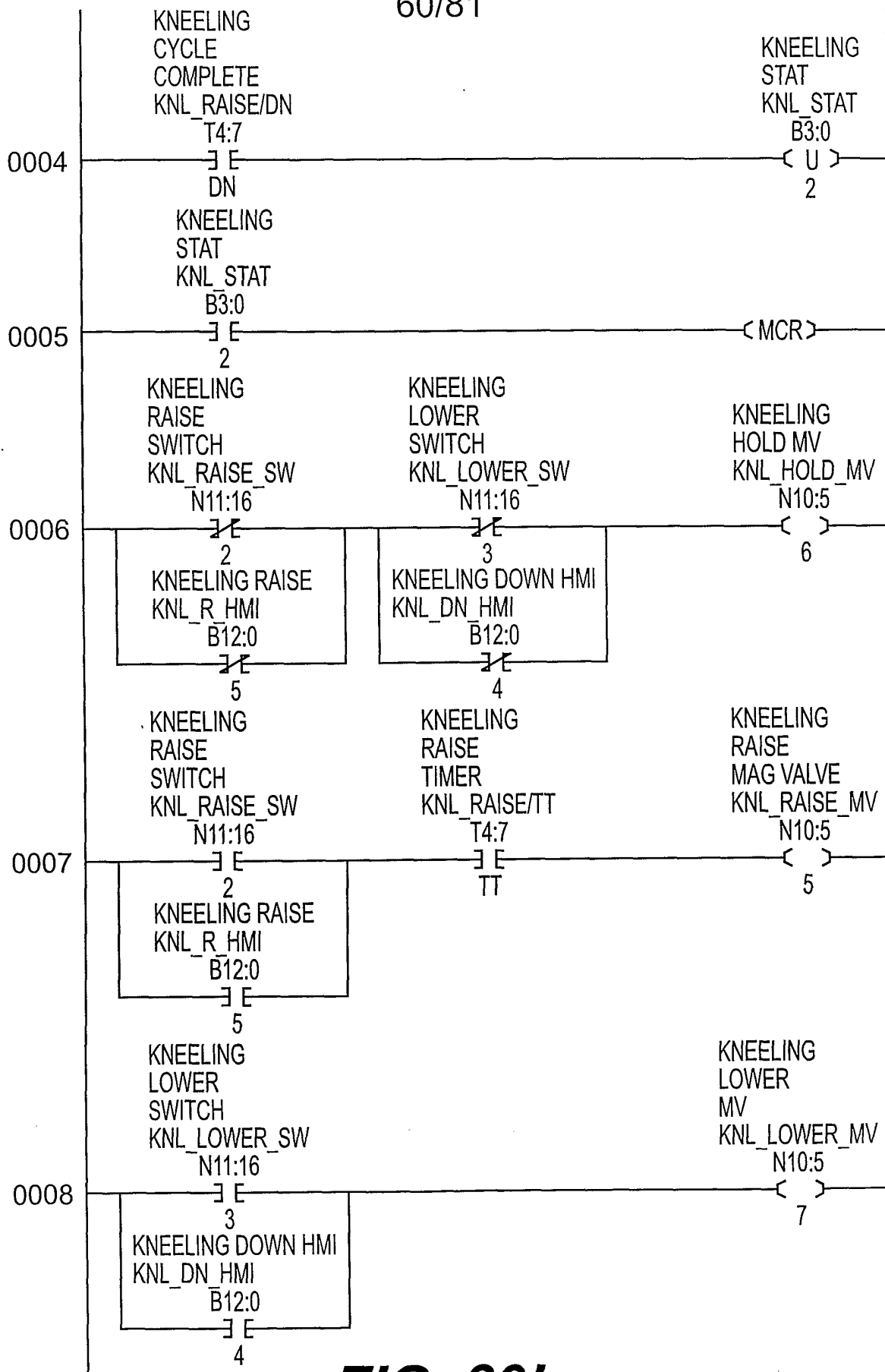


FIG. 39b

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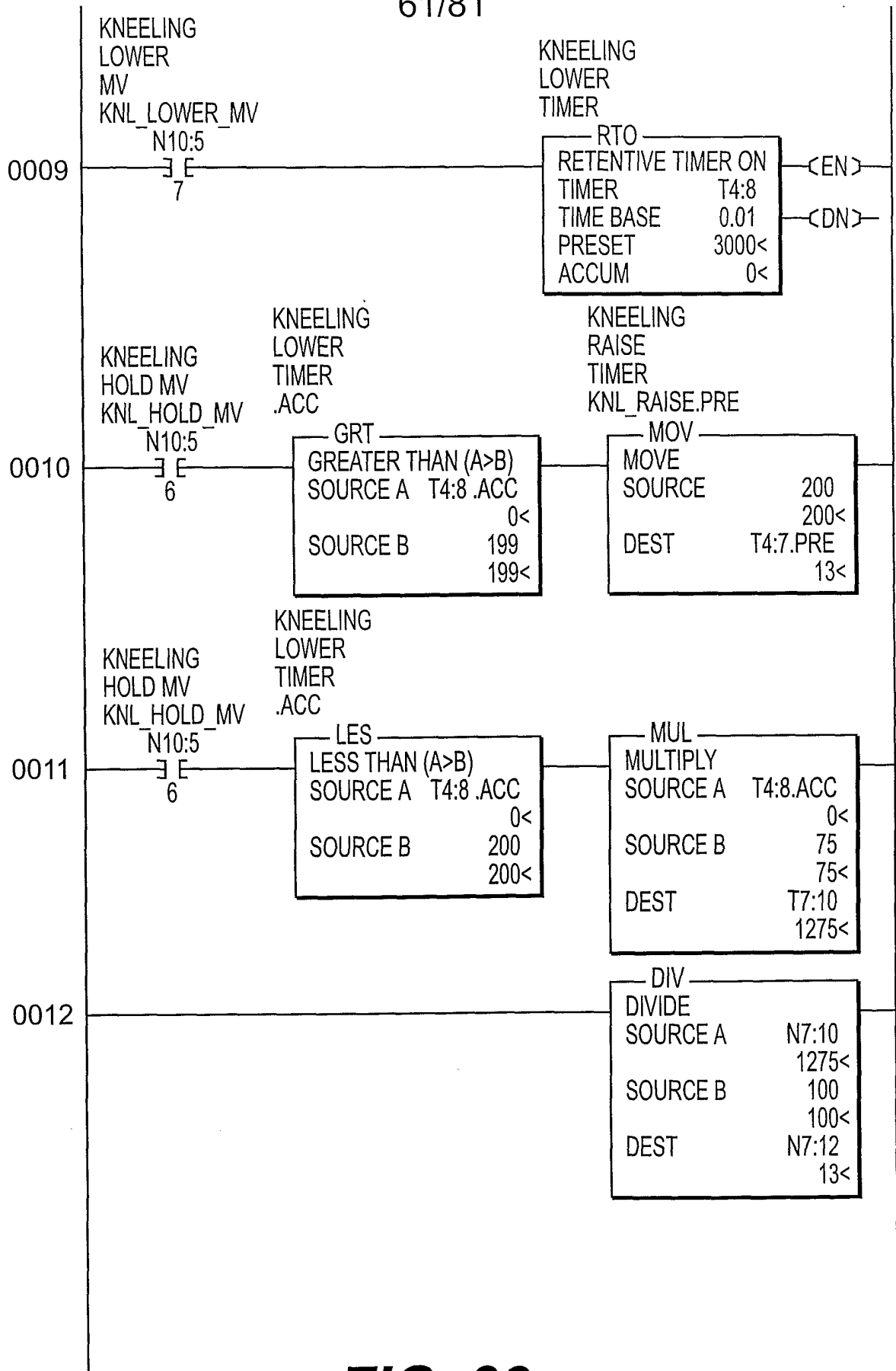


FIG. 39c

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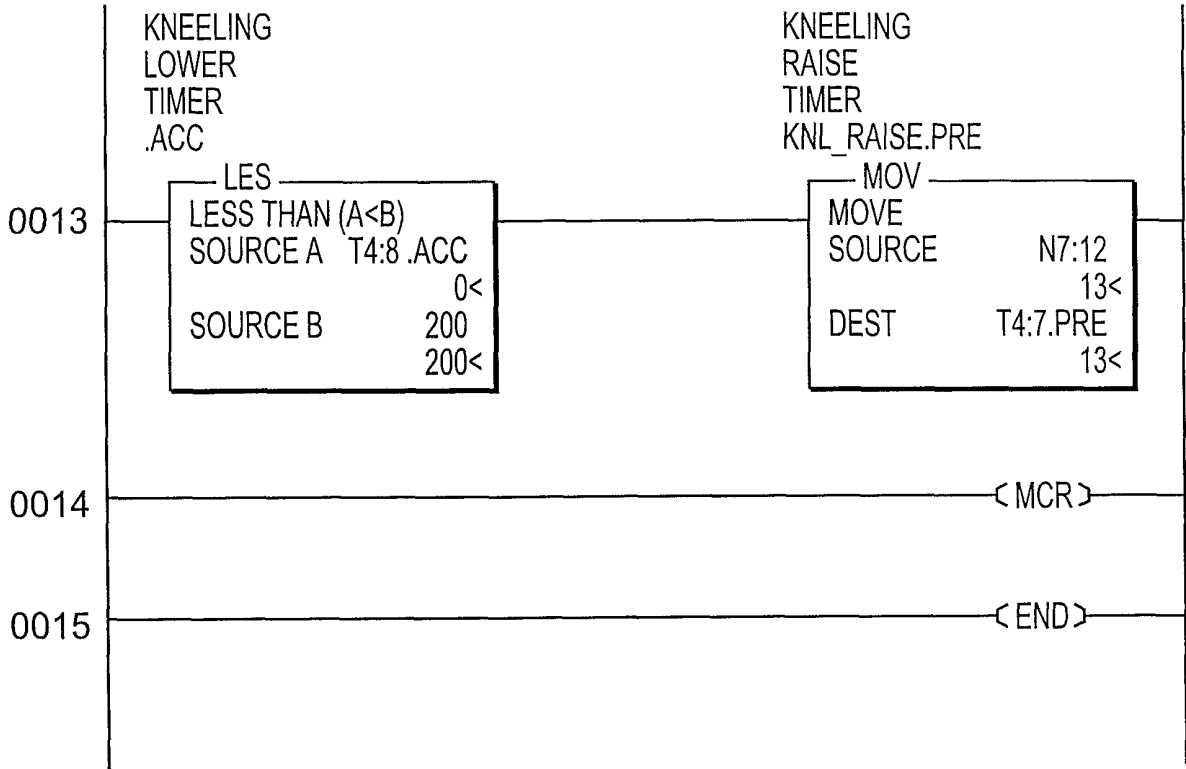


FIG. 39d

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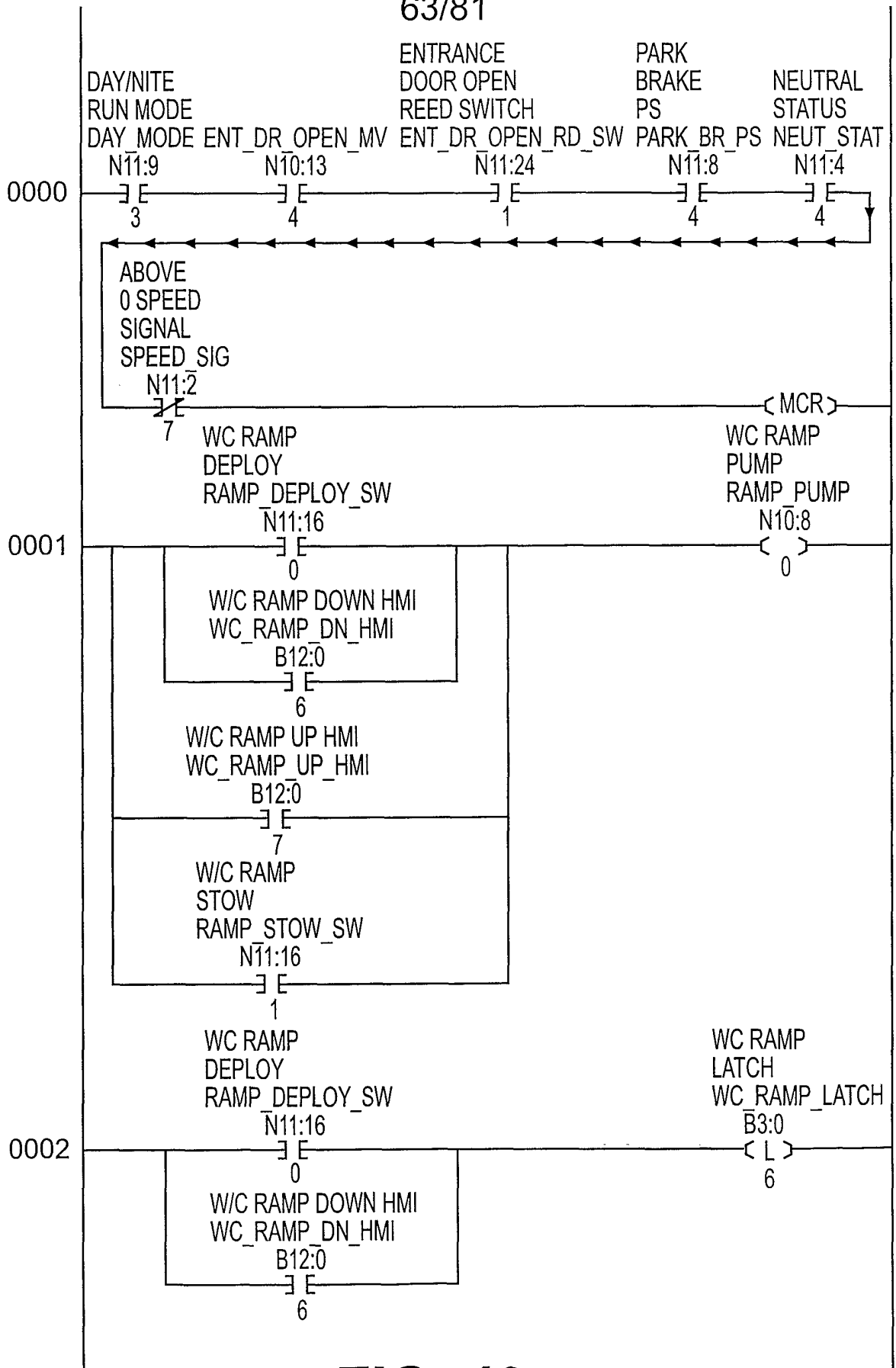


FIG. 40a

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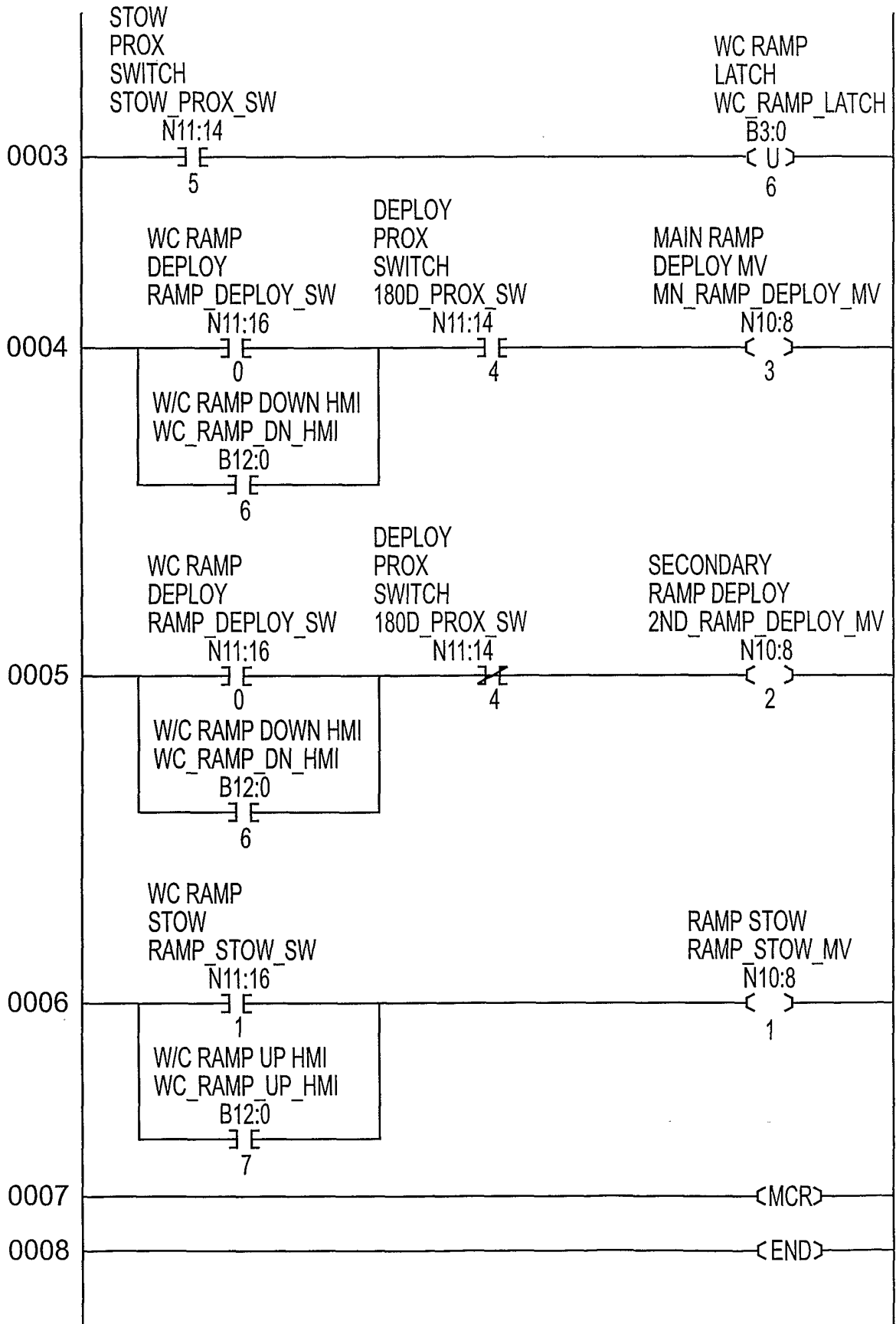


FIG. 40b

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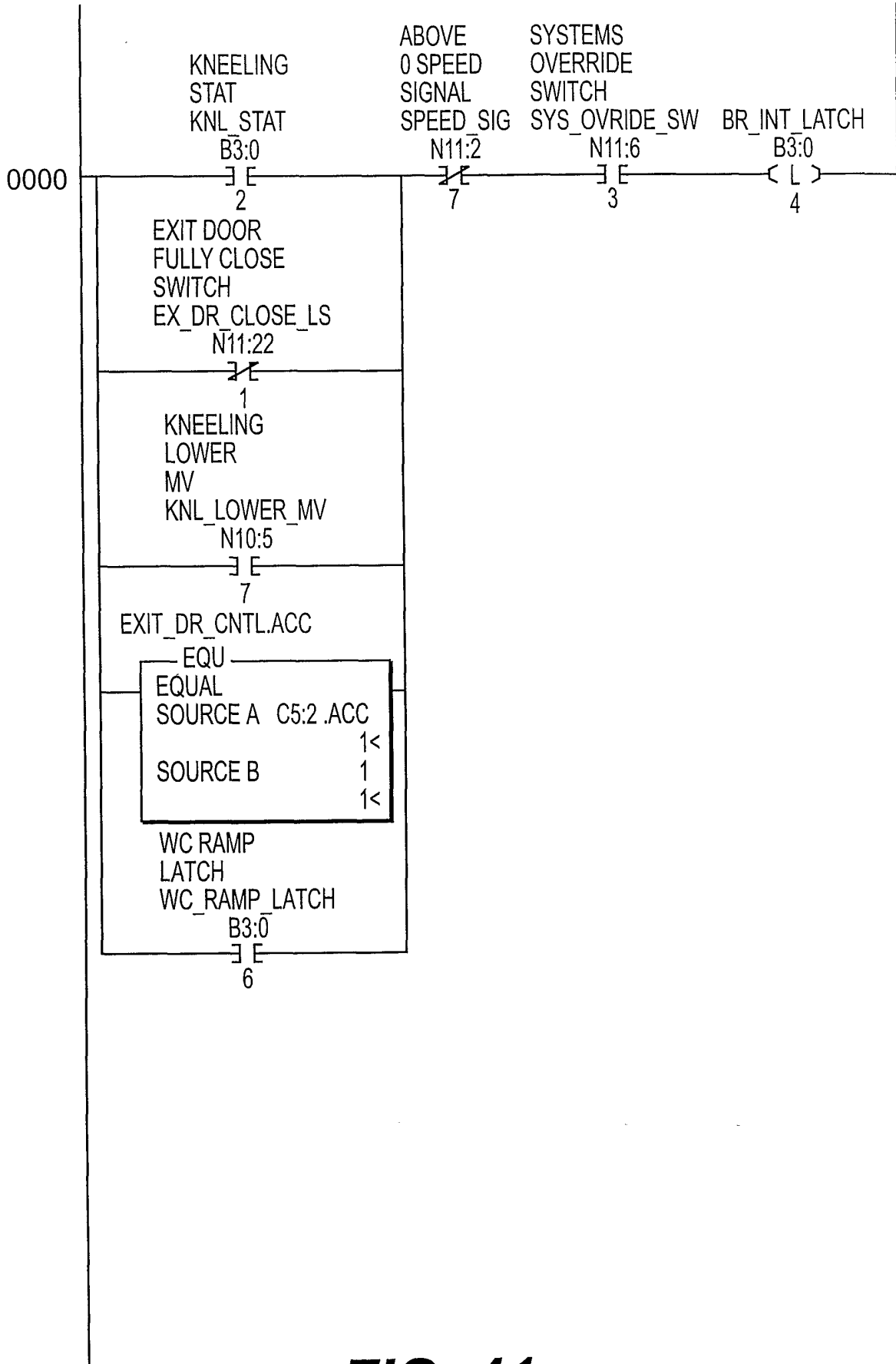


FIG. 41a

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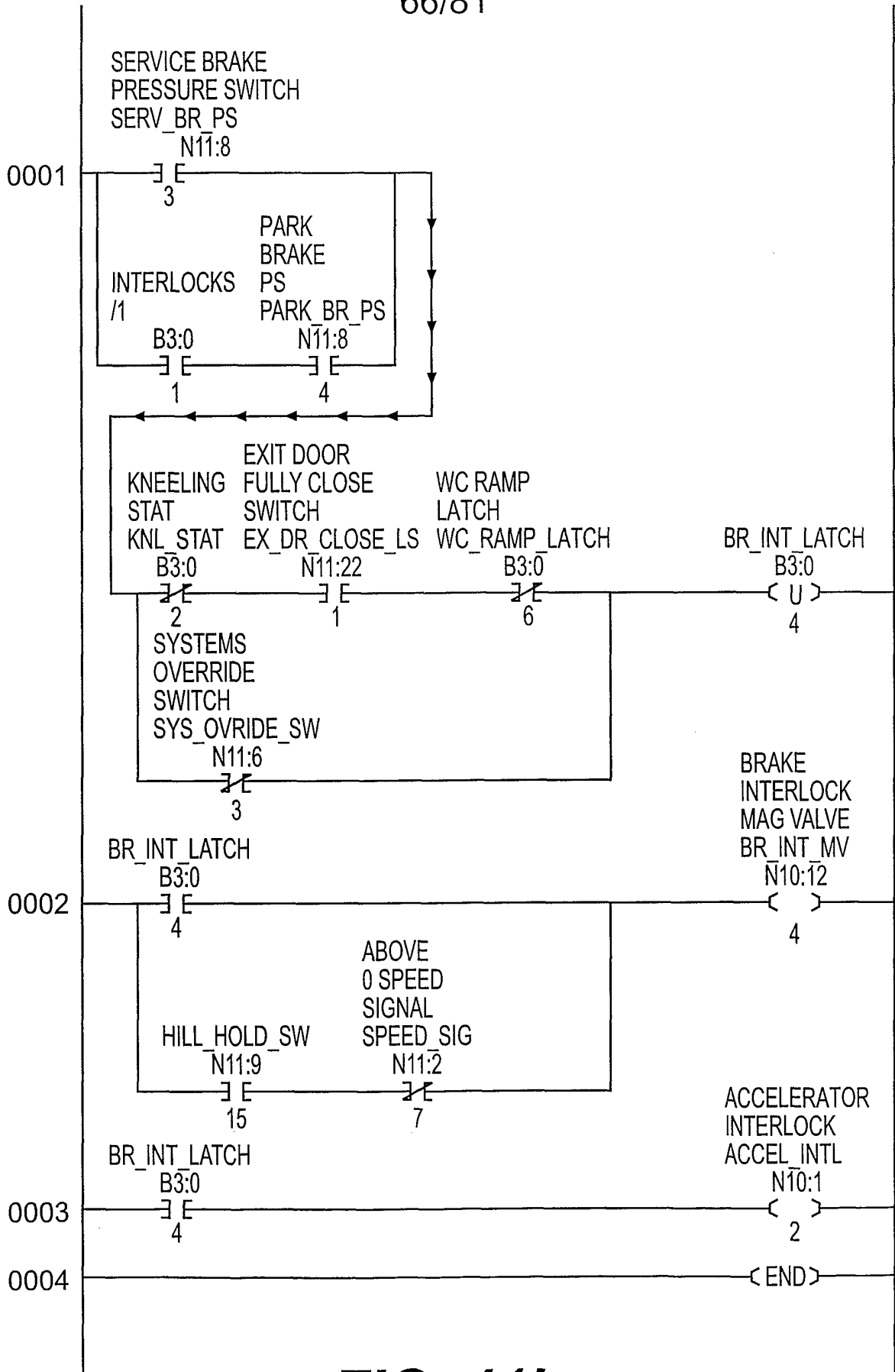


FIG. 41b

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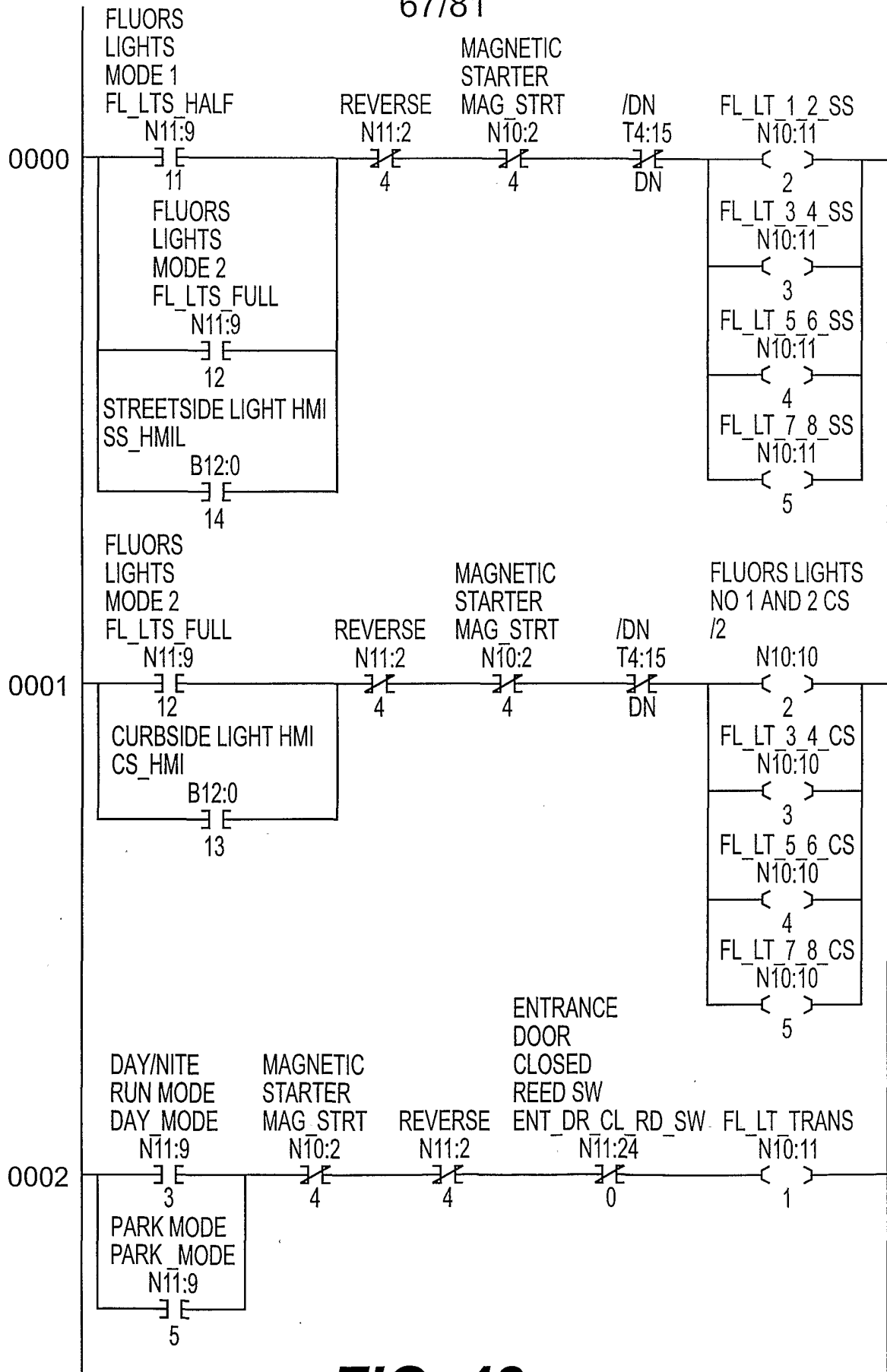


FIG. 42a

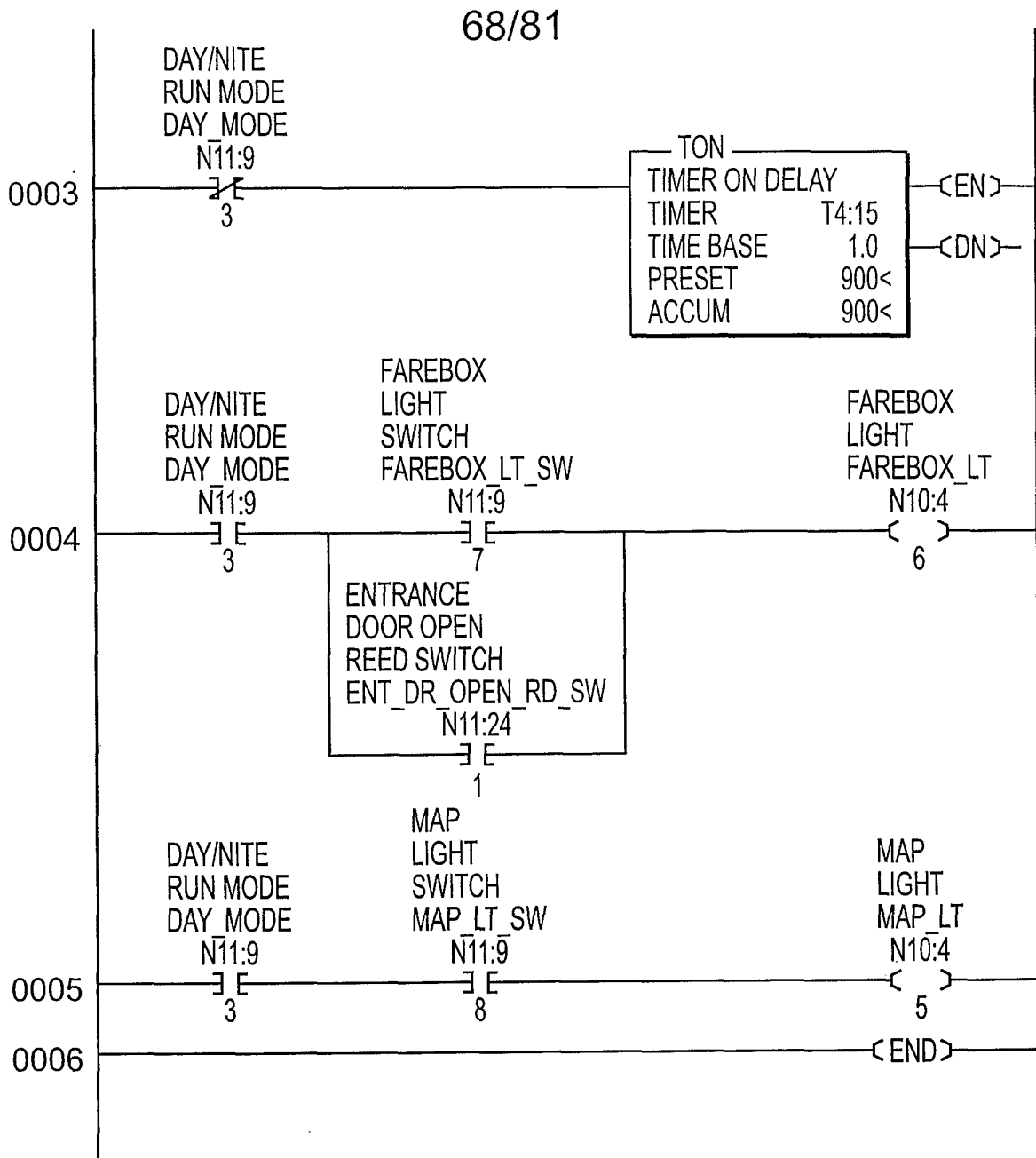


FIG. 42b

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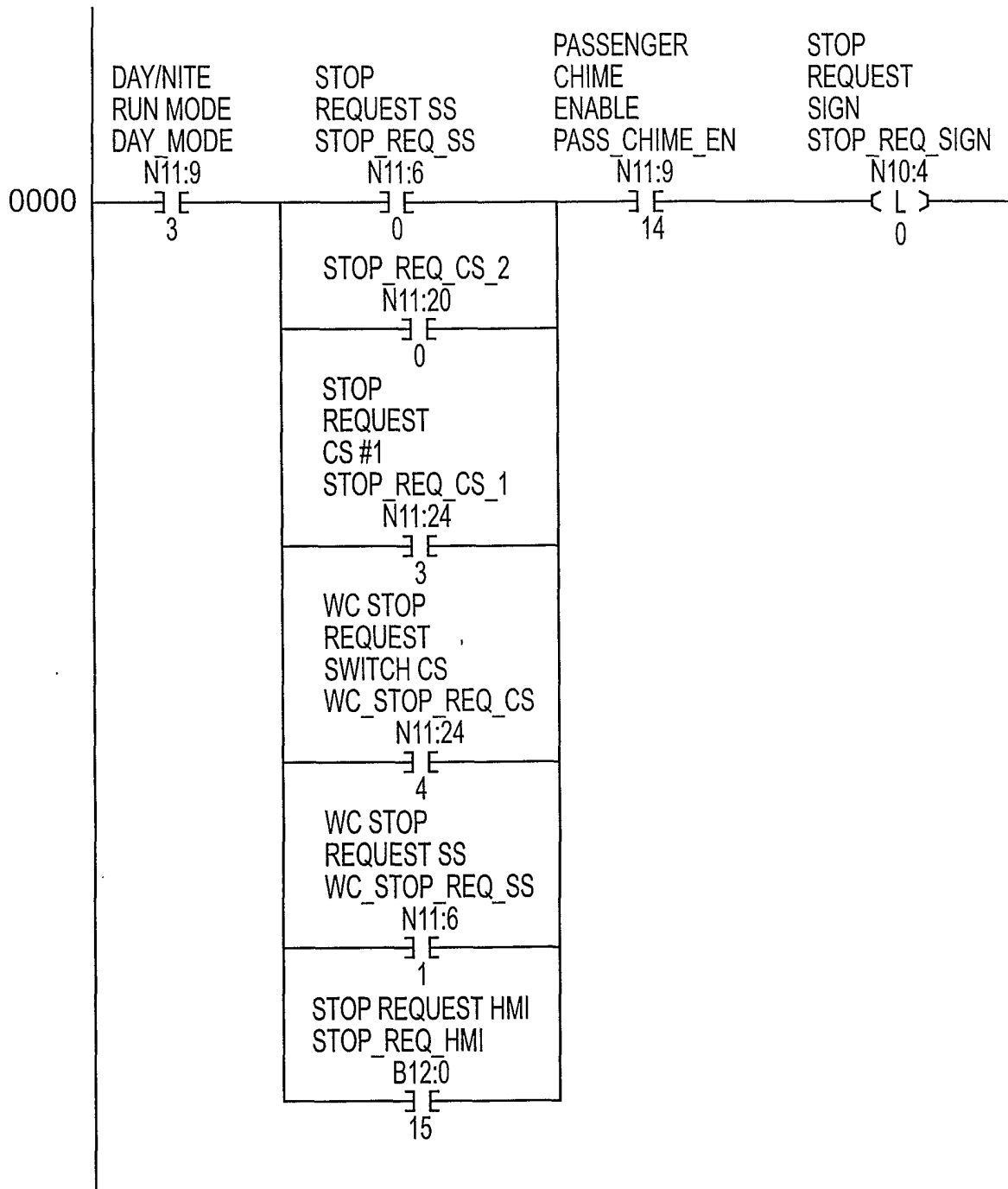


FIG. 43a

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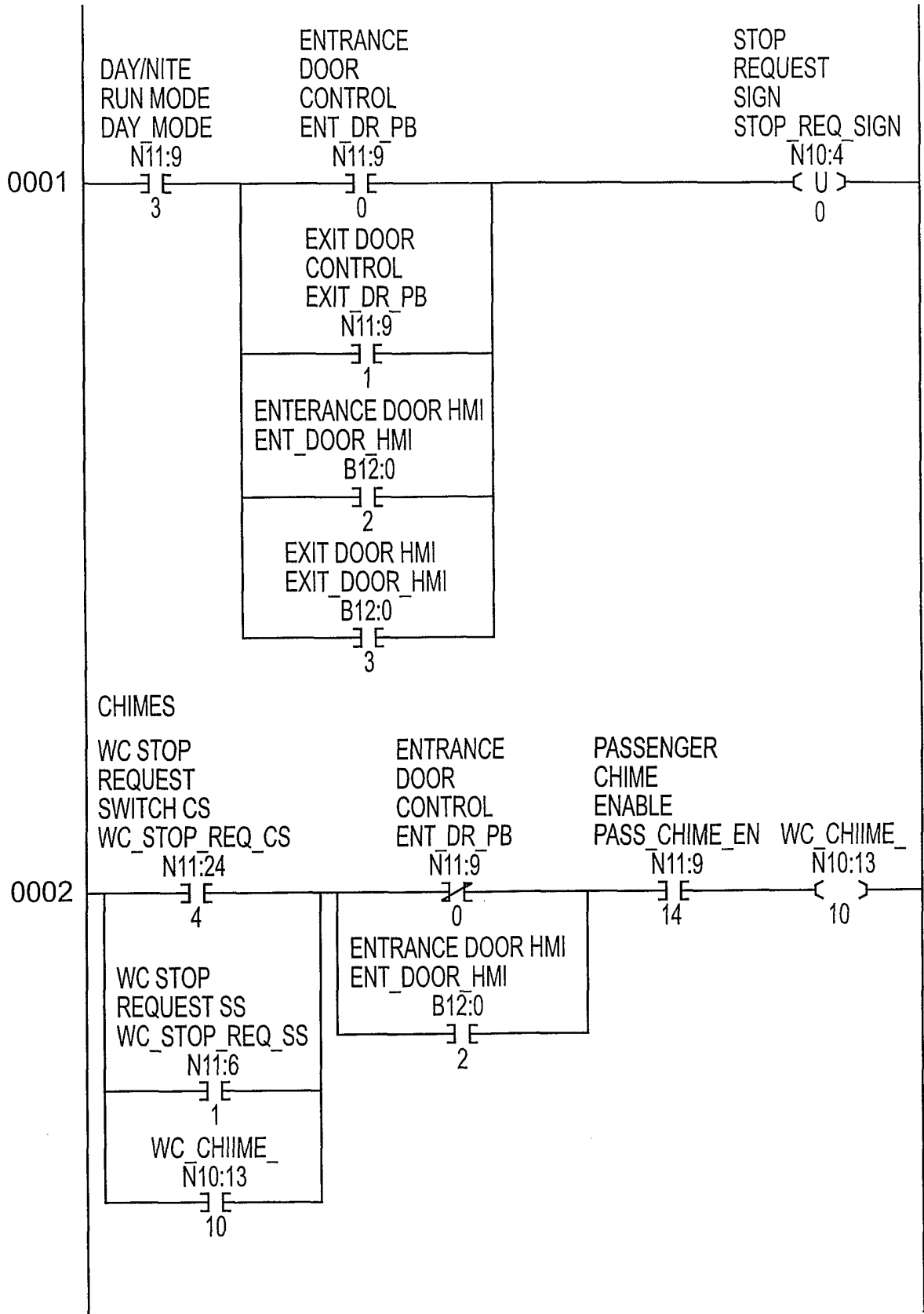


FIG. 43b

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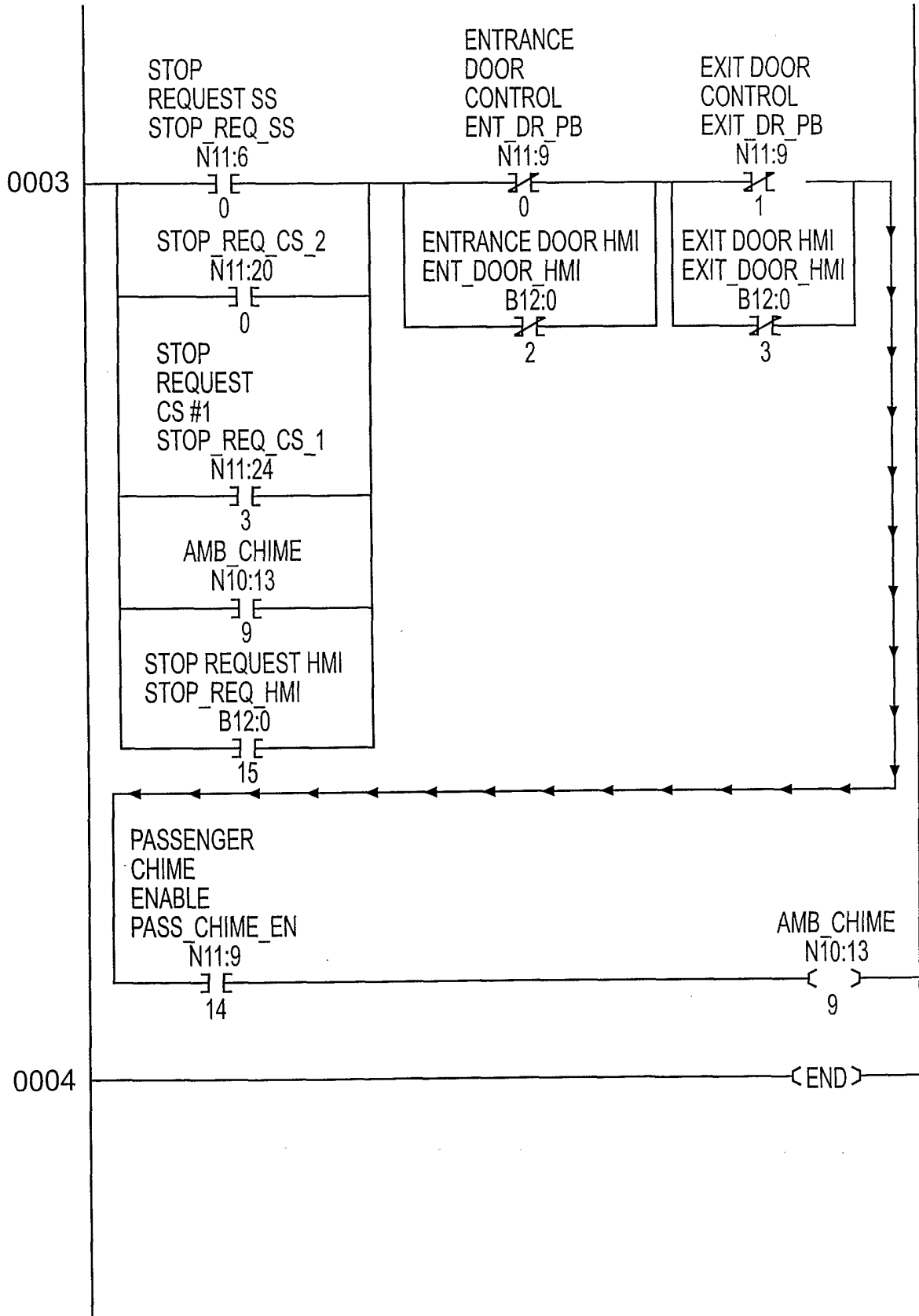


FIG. 43c

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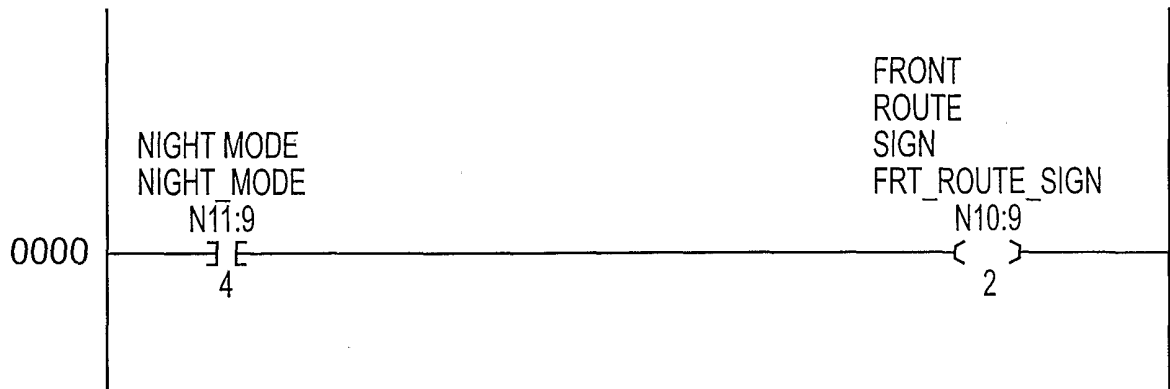


FIG. 44a

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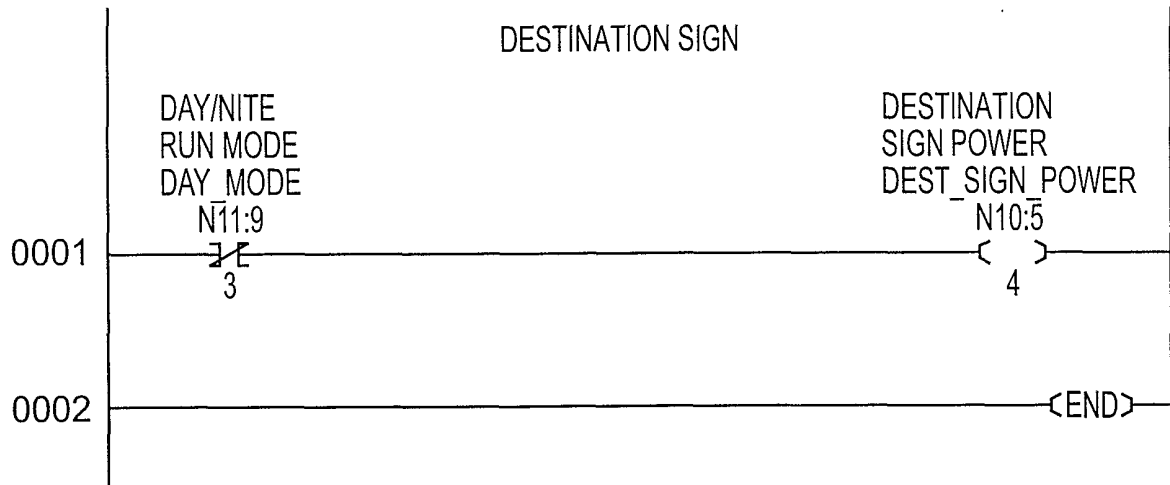


FIG. 44b

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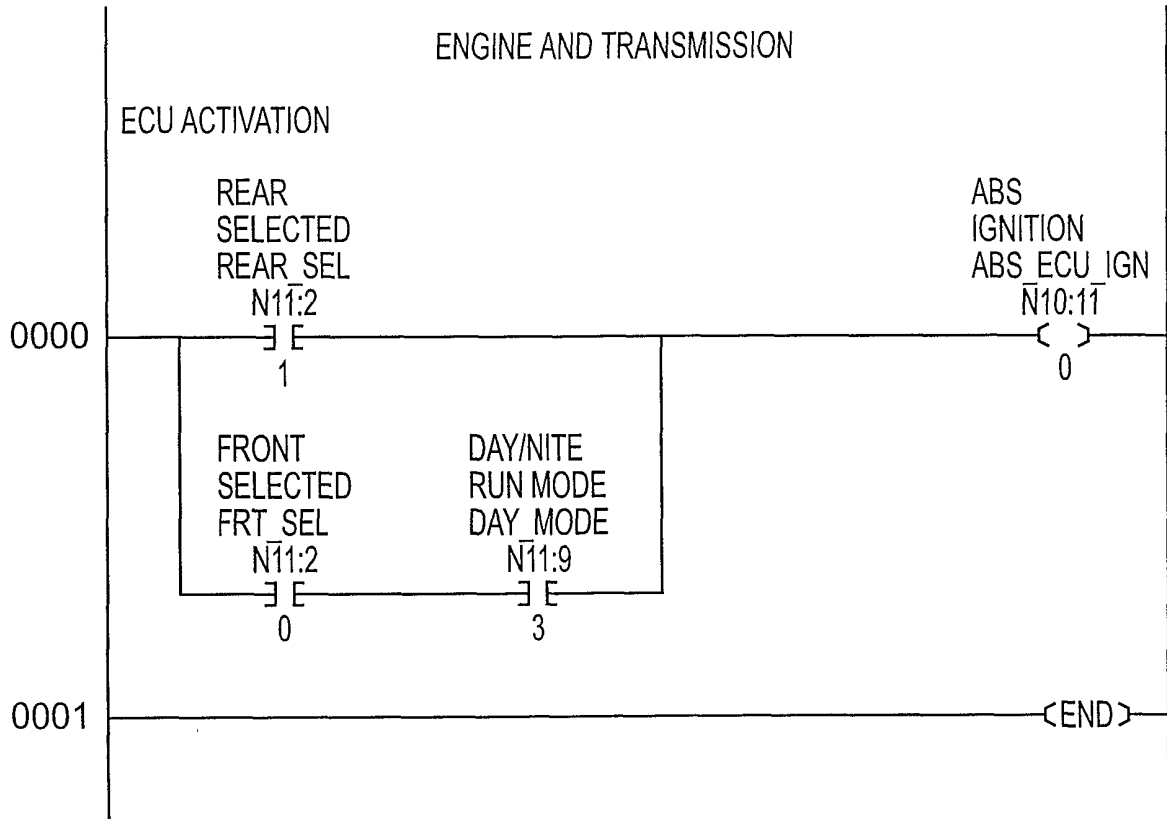


FIG. 45

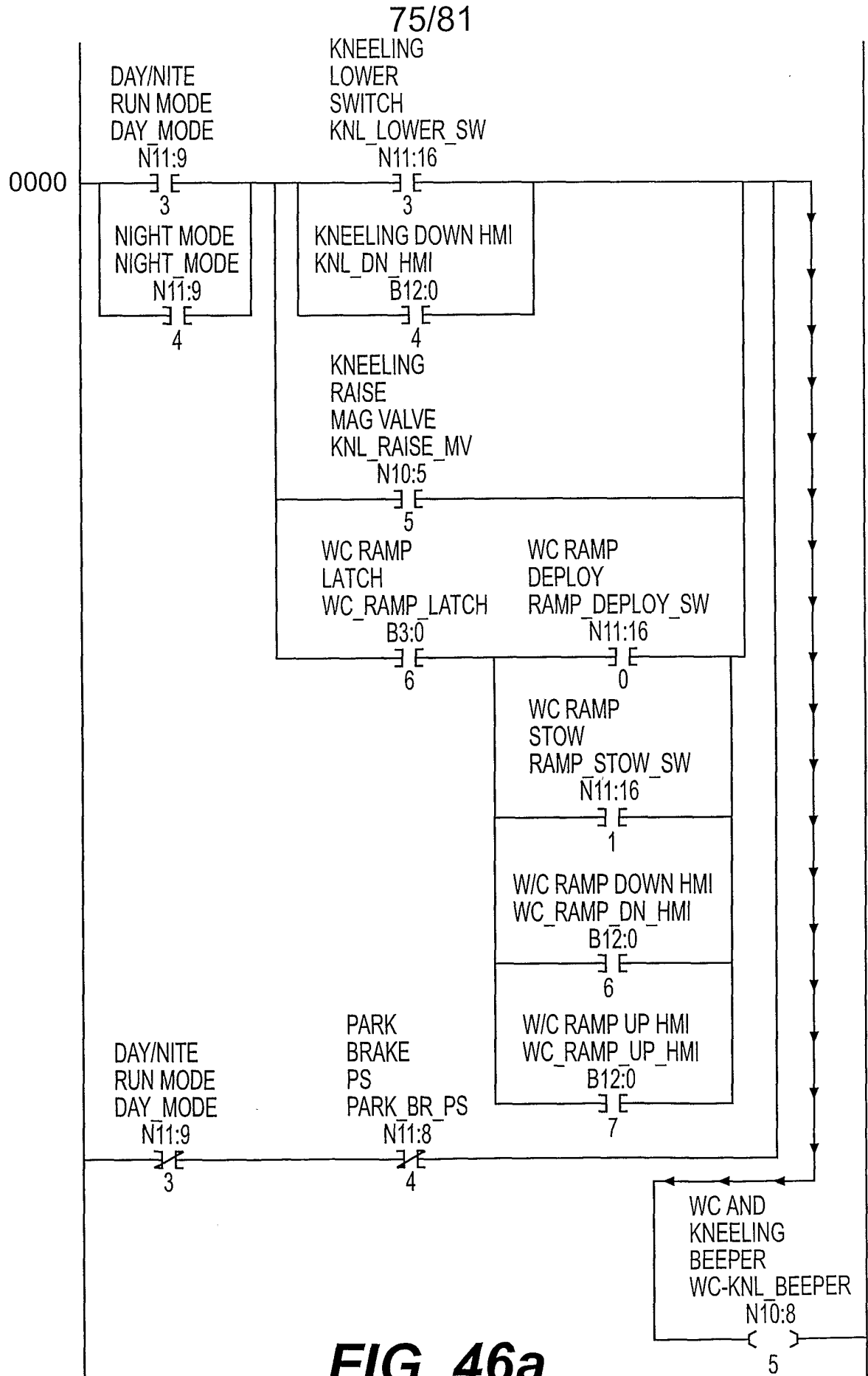


FIG. 46a

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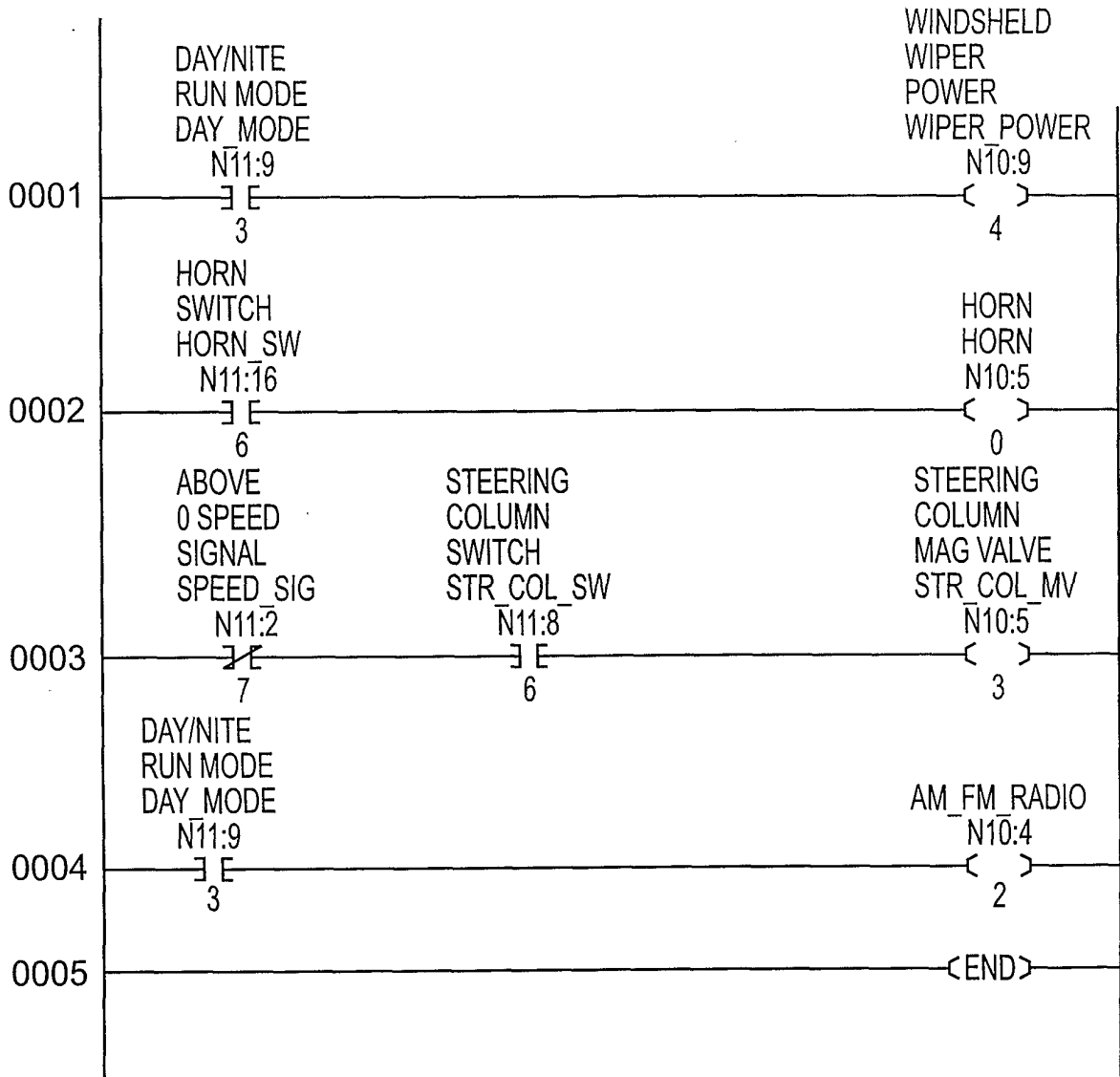


FIG. 46b

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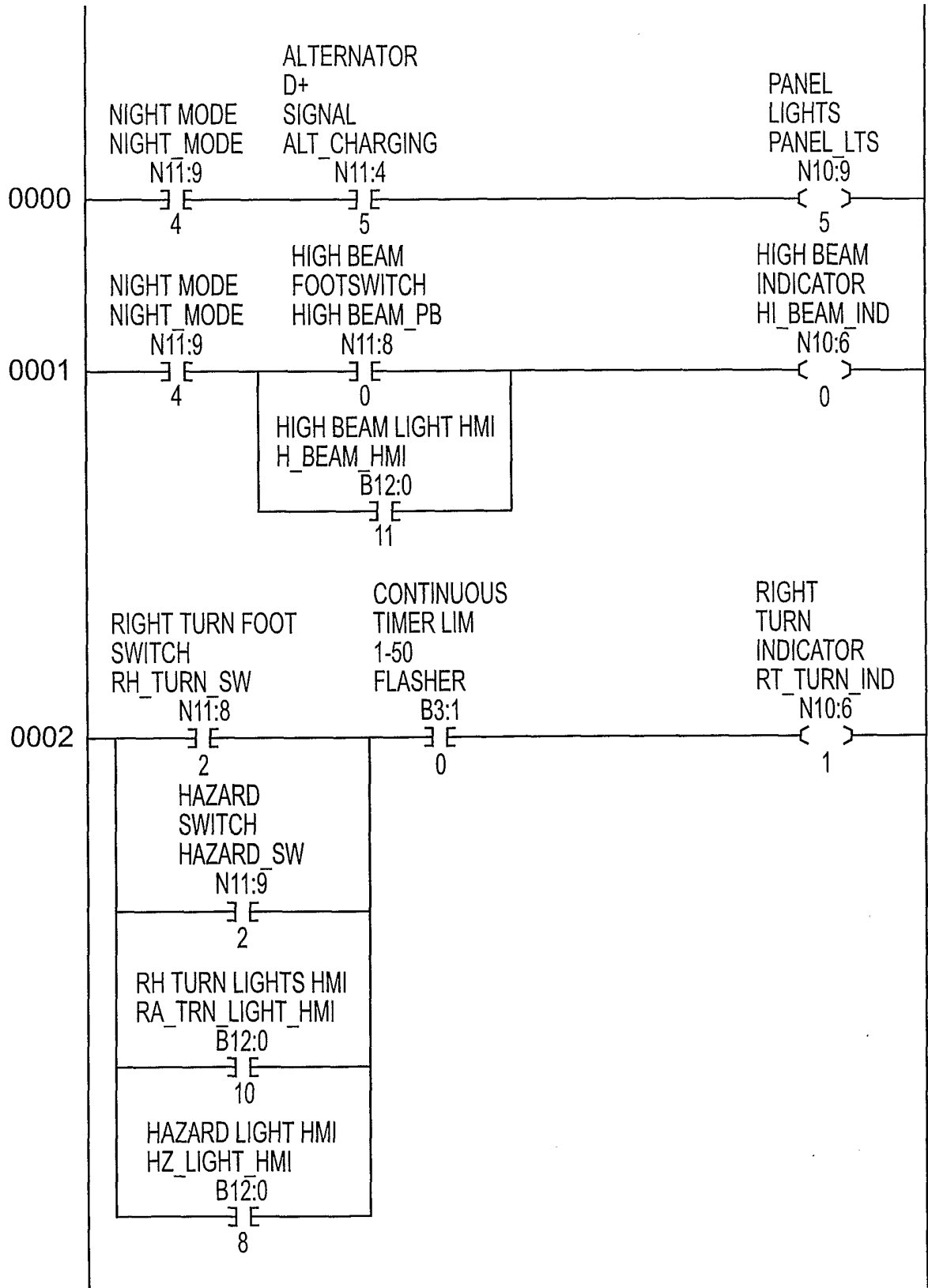


FIG. 47a

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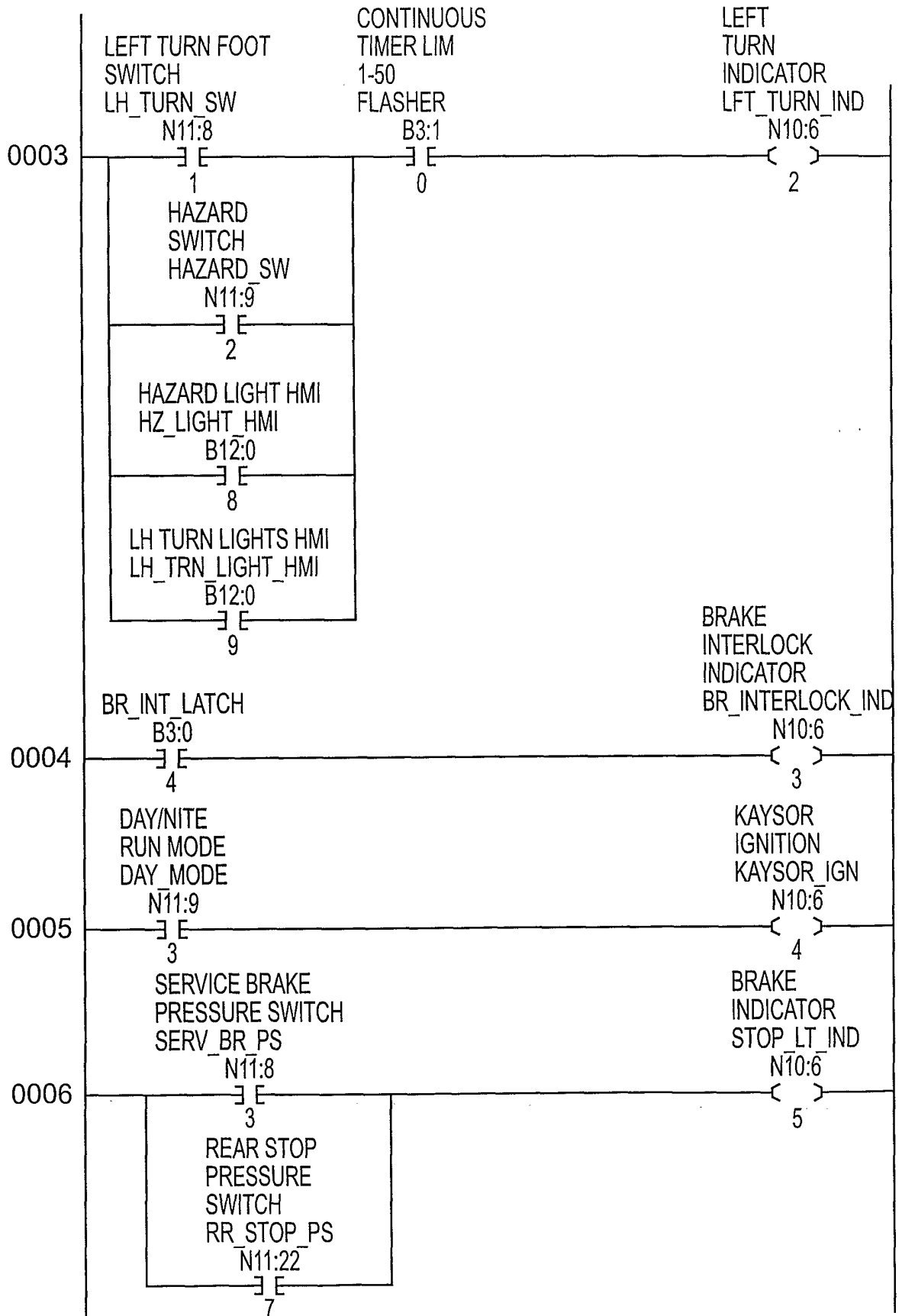


FIG. 47b

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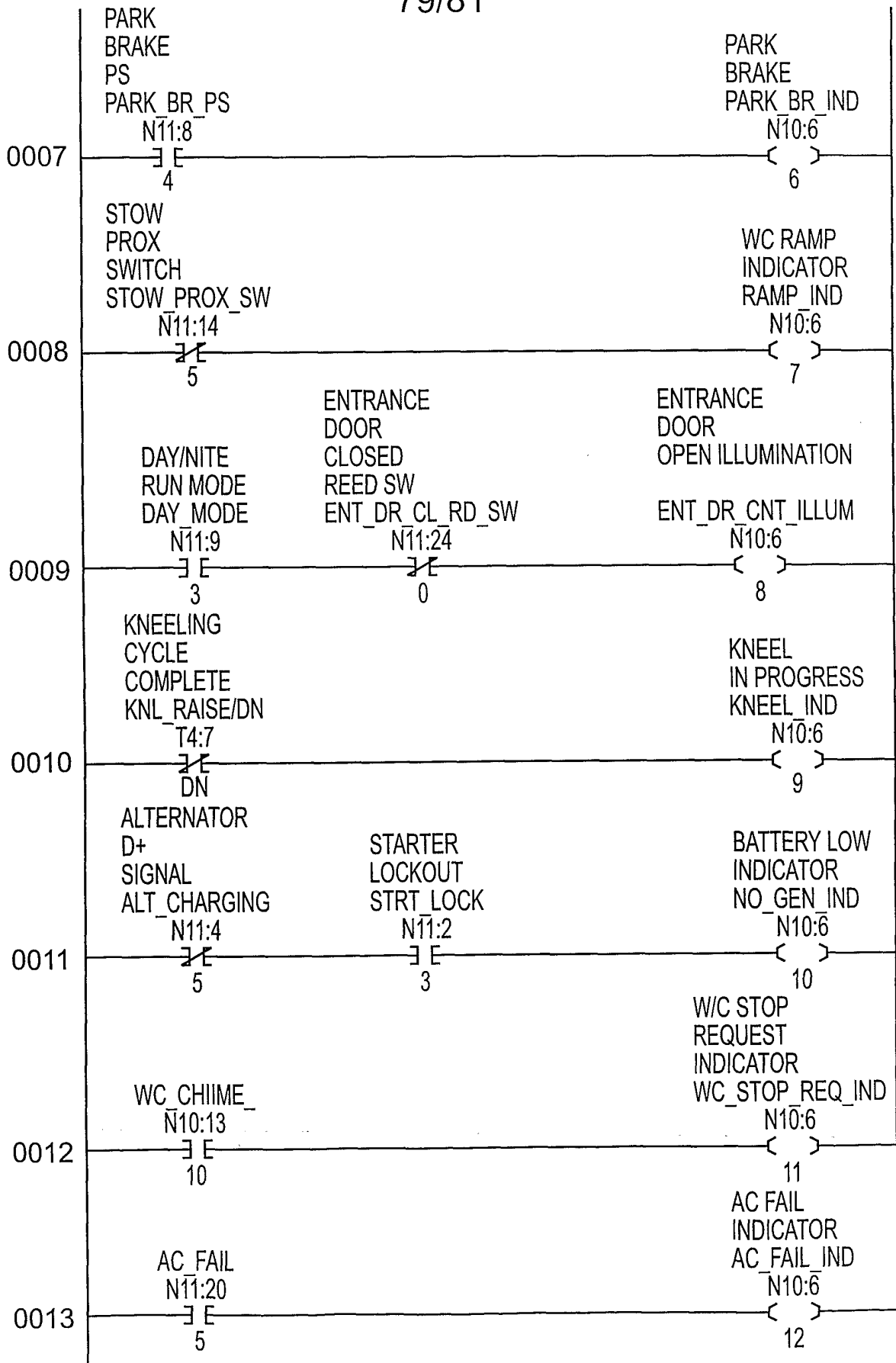


FIG. 47c

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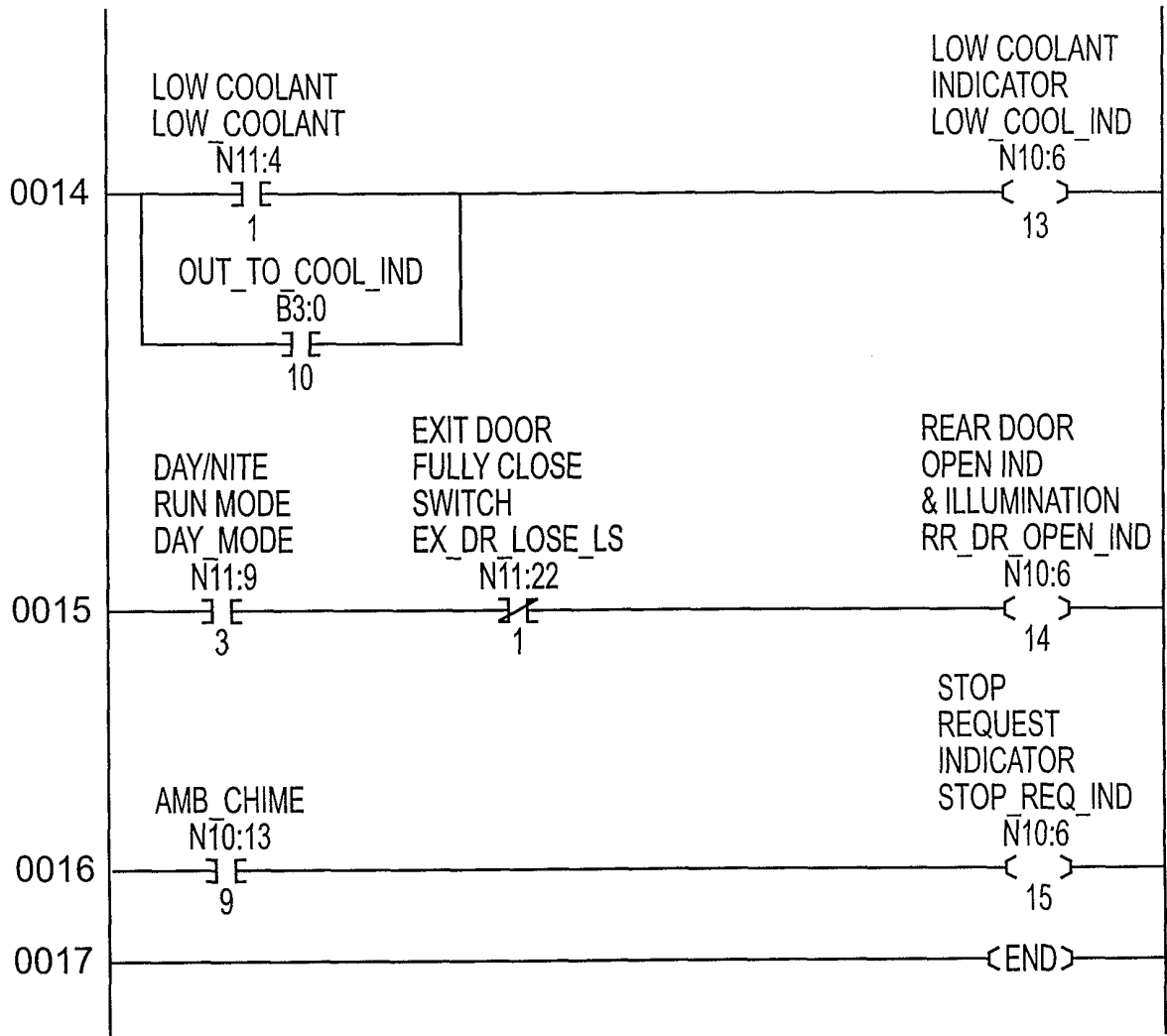


FIG. 47d

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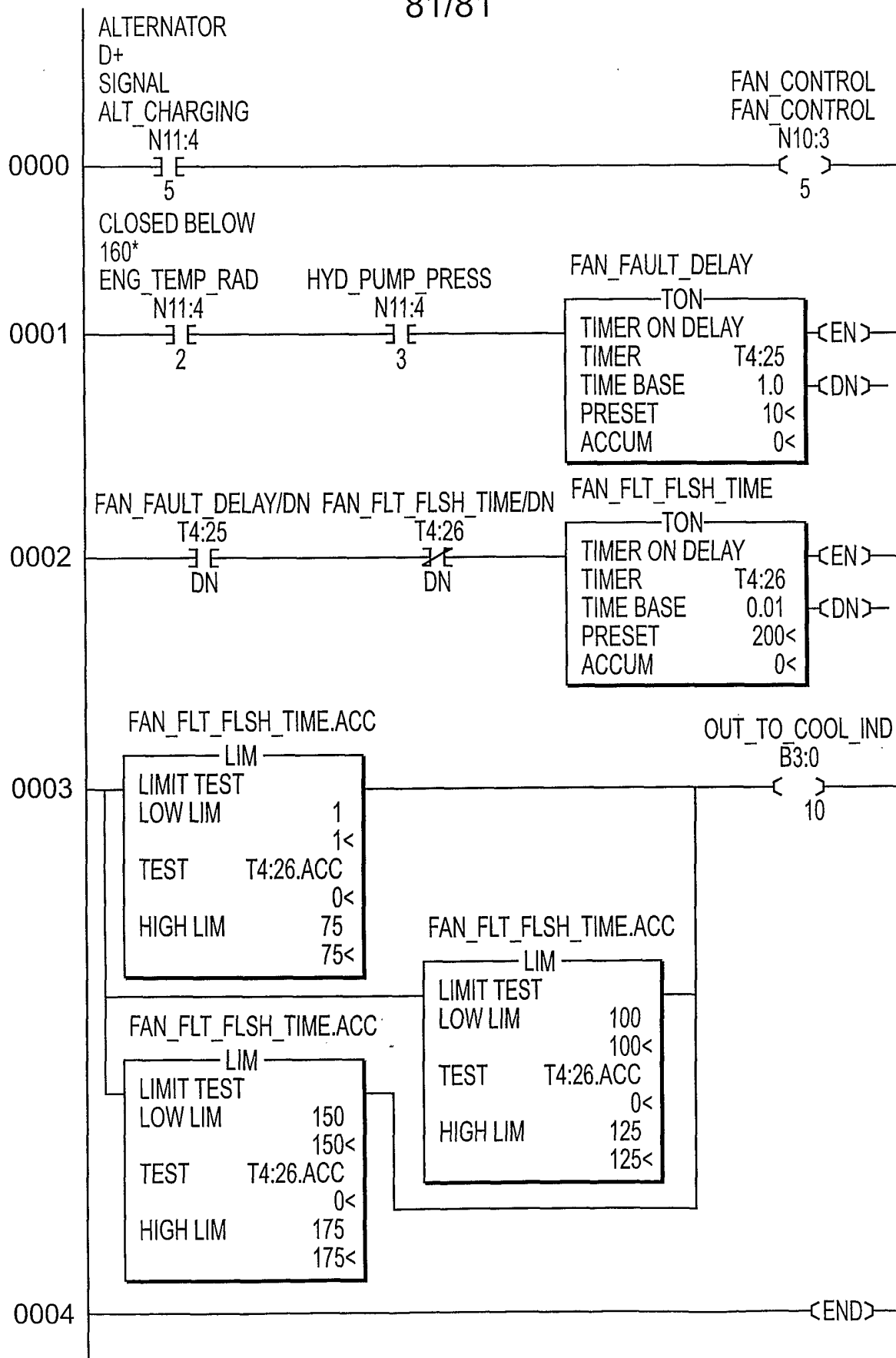


FIG. 48

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Initial Application No

PCT/CA 01/00720

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G08G1/123		
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) IPC 7 G08G		
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) WPI Data, EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 023 232 A (EITZENBERGER KLAUS) 8 February 2000 (2000-02-08) column 3, line 60 - line 65 column 6, line 66 -column 7, line 32; figure 1 ---	1-6
Y	EP 1 001 385 A (MERITOR HEAVY VEHICLE SYS LTD) 17 May 2000 (2000-05-17) column 2, line 39 -column 3, line 27 ---	1-6
Y	GB 2 281 141 A (MOTOROLA GMBH) 22 February 1995 (1995-02-22) page 4, line 22 -page 5, line 11 ---	1-6
A	US 4 799 162 A (SHINKAWA KIYOSHI ET AL) 17 January 1989 (1989-01-17) column 4, line 39 - line 57; figure 10 -----	1-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in 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 *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) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		*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 *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 *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
Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 November 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 19/12/2001
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 01/00720

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