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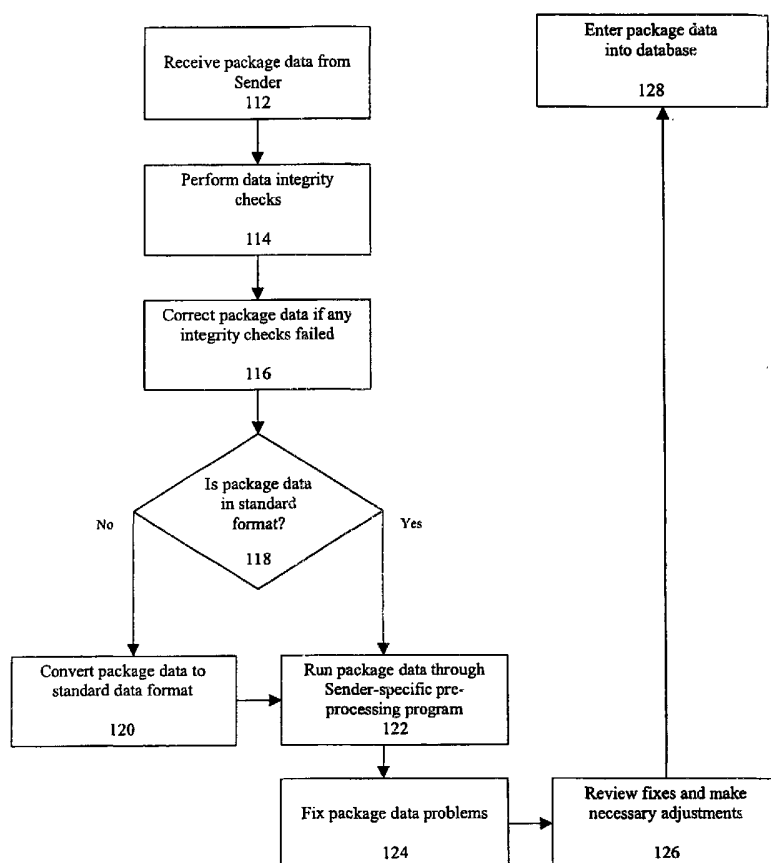
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING SHIPMENT OF PACKAGES



(57) Abstract: A method for shipping packages (Figs 1-5) from a Sender (112) to a Recipient via any number of shippers. The apparatus includes a database for storing shipper data, a processor for processing the data in the database, a Sender's terminal for receiving and sending shipment information to/from the processing system, a first communications link for selectively enabling communication between the database/processor and the Sender's terminal, a second communications link for selectively communicating between the database/processor and the package shipper, and a third communications link for communicating between the processor and the customs facilitation entities such as customs brokers. The Internet may be used as at least one of the communications links and the database may be available through a Web site.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 705/26

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/26

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,664,110 A (GREEN et. al.) 02 SEPTEMBER 1997, entire document	1-21
Y	US 5,897,622 A (BLINN et. al) 27 APRIL 1999, entire document	1-21

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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