

(19)



(11)

EP 1 900 447 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
28.05.2008 Bulletin 2008/22

(51) Int Cl.:
B07C 7/02 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
19.03.2008 Bulletin 2008/12

(21) Application number: **07254420.8**

(22) Date of filing: **09.11.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE
SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

(72) Inventors:
• **Wilcock, Peter John
Lower Hutt (NZ)**
• **Husson, Benjamin
Wellington (NZ)**

(30) Priority: **07.03.2007 NZ 55368507**

(71) Applicant: **New Zealand Post Limited
Wellington (NZ)**

(74) Representative: **Ribeiro, James Michael et al
Withers & Rogers LLP
Goldings House
2 Hays Lane
London SE1 2HW (GB)**

(54) **Apparatus for sorting postal items**

(57) Apparatus for sorting postal items, the apparatus comprising at least two groups of sorting compartments (107,109a,109b) and a translation mechanism,

wherein a first and second group of sorting compartments move relative to each other and translate, using the translation mechanism, between a first and second working configuration.

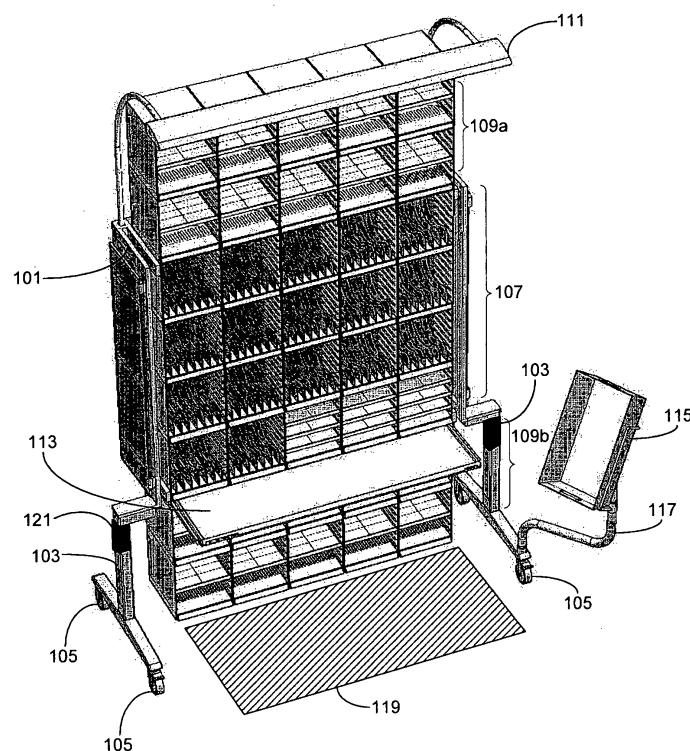


Figure 1

EP 1 900 447 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 25 4420

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	DE 478 758 C (OTTO GERGACSEVICS) 3 July 1929 (1929-07-03) * page 1; figures 1,3,5 *	1-6	INV. B07C7/02
X	WO 01/60532 A (POST DANMARK [DK]; ANDERSEN KIM BRANDSTRUP [DK]) 23 August 2001 (2001-08-23) * page 3, line 33 - page 5, line 20; figures 1-3 *	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B07C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 January 2008	Examiner Golombek, Gregor
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

3
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- 1-6, 29, 30
- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-6,29,30

Arrangement of the groups of compartments

2. claims: 1,7-17

Design of the translation mechanism

3. claim: 1 and 18

Design of the working surface

4. claims: 1,19,20

Height adjustment

5. claims: 1,21,22

Removable sorting tray

6. claims: 1 and 23 - 27

Sorting apparatus having a displays/computing device

7. claim: 1 and 28

Translation device having a motor

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 25 4420

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-01-2008

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 478758	C	03-07-1929	NONE

WO 0160532	A	23-08-2001	AU 3361801 A 27-08-2001
			DK 200000245 A 17-08-2001
