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(71) Applicant: **AOS Holding Company
Wilmington, DE 19890 (US)**

(72) Inventors:
• **Schurter, Robert M.
Colgate,
Wisconsin 53017 (US)**
• **Carian, Stephen
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin 53218 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Neill, Alastair William et al
Appleyard Lees
15 Clare Road
Halifax
West Yorkshire HX1 2HY (GB)**

(54) **Apparatus and method for containing and regulating the pressure in a pressure vessel**

(57) Some embodiments relate to an apparatus and method for manufacturing a tank and/or pressure sensing assembly that can reduce one or more steps from a conventional manufacturing operation. The tank of some embodiments can have a seal that is capable of sealing an entire opening within the tank and is adapted to be punctured or pierced by a portion of a pressure sensing assembly or while the pressure sensing assembly is attached to the tank. The pressure sensing assembly of some embodiments can include a conduit connectable with the tank and a pressure switch coupled to the conduit. A projection contiguous with and extending from the conduit can pierce the seal (if used) on the tank. The projection can also pierce an elastic member within the tank in the event that the elastic member contacts the piercing member due to a leak.

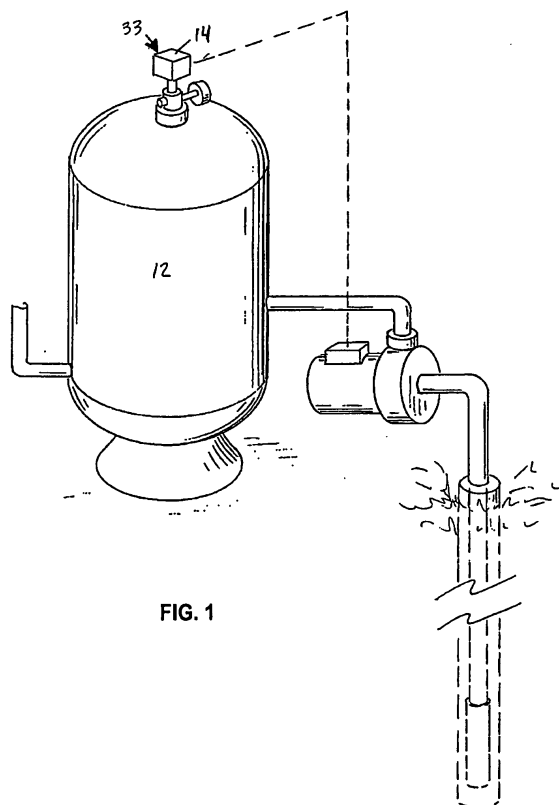


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 5 320 495 A (RALPH ET AL) 14 June 1994 (1994-06-14) * the whole document *	1,11,12, 22,23, 31,39, 40,43	INV. E03B11/02
A	US 4 304 526 A (SHETLER, SR. ET AL) 8 December 1981 (1981-12-08) * column 2, line 65 - column 5, line 66; figures 1-7 *	1,11,12, 21-23, 31,39, 40,44	
A	DE 94 03 741 U1 (REFLEX WINKELMANN + PANNHOFF GMBH, 59227 AHLEN, DE) 5 May 1994 (1994-05-05) * the whole document *	1,12,22, 31,39	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E03B F04B H01H B65D F24D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 29 June 2006	Examiner Vrugt, S
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	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)

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

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29-06-2006

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