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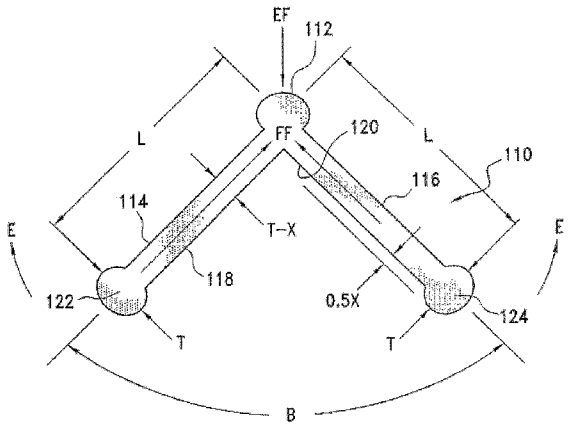
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
1 March 2007

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.

(54) Title: CORNER OR EDGE PROTECTOR EXHIBITING IMPROVED FLEXURAL STRENGTH AND RESISTANCE PROPERTIES



(57) Abstract: A new and improved external corner protector is fabricated from predetermined materials and comprises a vertex portion (112), and a pair of leg members (114, 116) which diverge outwardly at a predetermined included angle with respect to each other from the vertex portion. The vertex portion and distal end portions of the leg members have relatively enlarged cross-sectional dimensions relative to the cross-sectional dimensions comprising those portions of the leg members which integrally interconnect the distal end portions of the leg members to the vertex portion, wherein the relatively enlarged cross-sectional dimensions serve to reinforce the vertex portion and to dispose only such relatively enlarged distal end portions of the leg members into contact with the external side wall members of the palletized load which define the external corner region being protected. In this manner, the leg members of the external corner protector are flexed more than has conventionally been the case such that forces are generated and transmitted to the vertex portion so as to rigidify the same whereby the vertex portion will exhibit enhanced flexural strength and bending resistance properties with respect to external forces which may be impressed upon the external corner protector thereby tending to flex or bend the same.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/013268

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B65D81/05

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)
B65D

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 813 537 A (DEREU ET AL) 29 September 1998 (1998-09-29) column 6, line 13 - column 8, line 7; figure 2	1-3, 11-13
X	FR 2 624 103 A (DELAMARE CIE ETS PIERRE) 9 June 1989 (1989-06-09) page 3, line 25 - page 6, line 8; figures 1-4	1-3, 11-13
X	US 4 877 673 A (ECKEL ET AL) 31 October 1989 (1989-10-31) column 4, lines 17-23; figure 3	1-3, 11-13

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family 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	Date of mailing of the international search report
1 September 2006	07. 12. 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Cazacu, Corneliu

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/013268

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 6, 7, 16, 17
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-3, 11-13

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 6, 7, 16, 17

Matter for which the protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claims attempt to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved, which merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem, without providing the technical features necessary for achieving the result.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-3, 11-13

corner edge protector material

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2. claims: 4, 5, 14, 15

leg angle

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3. claims: 8-10, 18-20

leg shape

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2006/013268

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5813537 A	29-09-1998	NONE	
FR 2624103 A	09-06-1989	NONE	
US 4877673 A	31-10-1989	AU 598136 B2	14-06-1990
		AU 1766088 A	22-12-1988
		EP 0295404 A1	21-12-1988
		NZ 225004 A	26-06-1990