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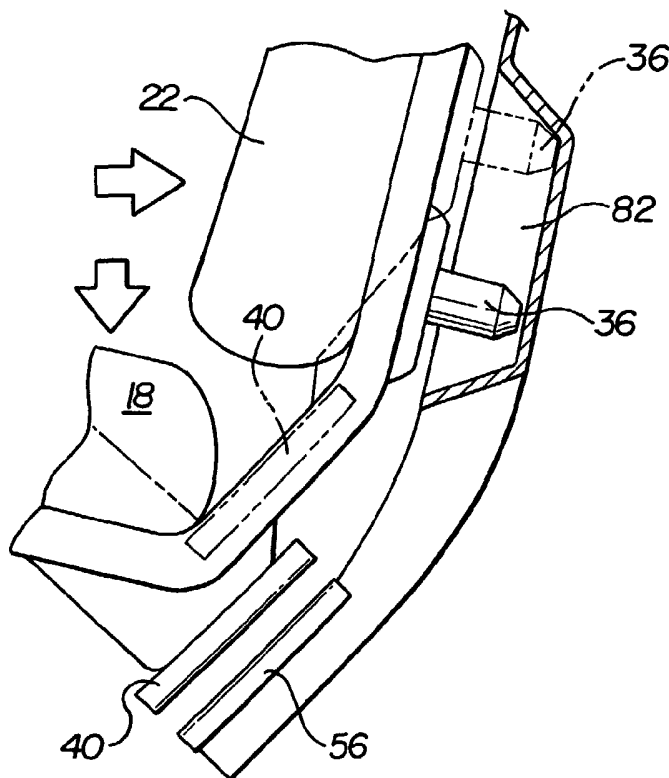
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A COUPLING SYSTEM FOR ATTACHMENT OF A SEAT TO ALLOW SECURING AND/OR LIFTING THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A coupling device (10) for a chair device, such as a wheelchair, includes a plate (20) that is intended to be integrally incorporated in the chair device frame or secured to the frame of the wheelchair. The plate (20) has an attachment system (26) formed by various elements thereof, which is intended for mating with a corresponding engagement device (50) associated with a lift mechanism (52). The attachment system (26) is intended to universally mate with the corresponding engagement device (50) to allow the wheelchair to be secured in position and then lifted to or lowered from an elevated position while the wheelchair is occupied.



- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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 Database**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,483,653 A (WAITE) 20 November 1984 (20.11.1984), Figures 1-16	1-9, 12-22, 25-32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41 ----- 23, 24, 36, 39
X --- Y	FR 2 699 129 A1 (BABOULIN) 17 June 1994 (17.06.1994), Figures 1-7	1, 2, 5-7, 9, 15, 16, 20-22, 25, 26, 31-34, 37, 38, 41 ----- 23, 24, 39
X	US 5,466,111 A (MEYER) 14 November 1995 (14.11.1995), Figures 1-8	1-6, 37, 38, 41
X --- Y	US 5,540,539 A (WOLFMAN et al) 30 July 1996 (30.07.1996), Figures 1-6	1-22, 25-38, 41 ----- 23, 24, 39



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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,416,272 B1 (SUEHIRO et al) 09 July 2002 (09.07.2002), Figures 1-32	1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-18, 21, 22, 25-32, 34, 37, 38, 41 ----- 23, 24, 39
X,P --- Y	US 6,543,848 B1 (SUGA et al) 08 April 2003 (08.04.2003), Figures 1-84	1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 15- 17, 19-22, 25-27, 29, 30, 32, 37, 38, 41 ----- 23, 24, 39
A	US 3,910,432 A (BROWNE et al) 07 October 1975 (07.10.1975), entire document	1-41
A	US 4,096,955 A (DAKE) 27 June 1978 (27.06.1978), entire document	1-41
A	US 5,388,289 A (CASPERSON) 14 February 1995 (14.02.1995), entire document	1-41
A	US 4,075,719 A (SULLIVAN) 28 February 1978 (28.02.1978), entire document	1-41
A	US 6,203,044 B1 (CONAWAY et al) 20 March 2001 (20.03.2001), entire document	1-41