Abstract: A venting mechanism includes a rigid support member and a thin, elastic membrane that is perforated with multiple pinholes. The support member includes a peripheral flange that is secured to the beverage container body, and a rigid support plate that defines one or more always-open vent holes. A flow control member includes the membrane and a peripheral collar surrounding the membrane that is secured to the container body by the peripheral flange. The membrane includes a thin sheet of a suitable elastomeric material that rests against an inside surface of the support plate when the pressure inside the container is equal to or greater than the surrounding environment. The pinholes are formed in the elastomeric material such that they are closed when the membrane is in the resting state, and open when the membrane is stretched in response to a pressure differential or an applied force.
Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 January 2008

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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US06/33050

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: A61J 9/00( 2006.01),11/00( 2006.01)

USPC: 215/1 1.1.1 1.4

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. : 215/1 1.1.1 1.4

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,446,822 (MEYERS et al.) 10 Sep 2002 (10.09.2002), column 4, lines 62-63, Figs. 1-5.</td>
<td>1-2, 5-7, 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,499,729 (GREENWOOD et al.) 19 Mar 1996 (19.03.1978), column 8, line 61, Figs. 15 &amp; 17.</td>
<td>3-4, 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,880,713 (HOLLEY, JR.) 19 Apr 2005 (19.04.2005), Fig. 2.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 August 2007 (22.08.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report 23 November 2007

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INTERNAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. 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.: 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:

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 No. 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:

Group One is drawn to Claims 1-13 for a beverage container assembly.

Group Two is drawn to Claim 14 for a method of filling a beverage container assembly.

The inventions listed as Groups One and Two do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature as claimed appears to be the perforated membrane with pinholes. Meyers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,822) discloses this feature. Therefore, no special technical feature exists, and lack of unity is present.

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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.

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.: 1-13

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.: 1-13

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.