

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
16 February 2006 (16.02.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2006/016154 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification: **B65B 19/14**,  
59/00, B65D 51/20, 25/04, 85/10

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2005/003136

(22) International Filing Date: 10 August 2005 (10.08.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
04254823.0 11 August 2004 (11.08.2004) EP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PHILIP MORRIS PRODUCTS S.A.** [CH/CH]; Quai Jeanneraud 3, CH-2000 Neuchâtel (CH).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ANCONA, Teresa** [US/CH]; Rue St-Jean 12, CH-1260 Nyon (CH). **LEWIS, Michael, Vincent** [GB/GB]; 24 Berther Road, Hornchurch, Essex (GB). **PULZ, Oliver** [DE/CH];

Chemin de la Damataire 26, CH-1009 Pully (CH). **LUTZIG, Bodo-Werner** [DE/CH]; Chemin L'Épignau 6, CH-1373 Chavornay (CH).

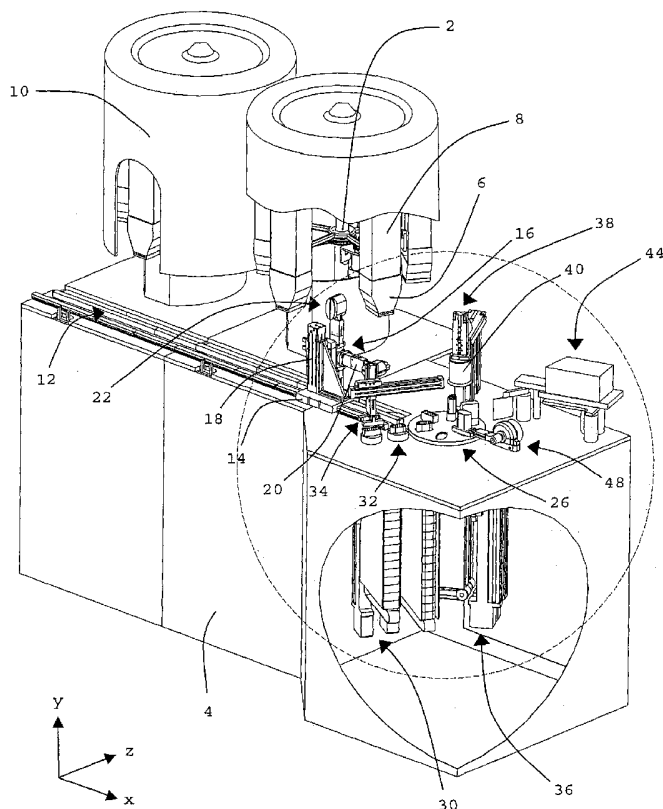
(74) Agent: **MARLOW, Nicholas, Simon**; Reddie & Grose, 16 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PL (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING CUSTOMISED CONTAINERS OF CIGARETTES



(57) Abstract: Cigarettes are stored in one or more reservoirs (6) at a customer location. A computer receives customer orders and transmits them to a dispenser. Upon receipt of a customer order, a pre-selected number of cigarettes are automatically removed from the reservoir(s) by the dispenser and then automatically packed in a container by a packer comprising a collation mandrel (22) which is moveable relative to the dispenser. A preferred type of substantially air-tight, self-sealing container has a lid portion (68), a body portion (50) and a collar (58), which is mounted within the body portion (50). The body portion (50) is provided with one or more upwardly extending protrusions (56) on the upper surface of the base thereof. An air and moisture impermeable membrane (60) is sealed about the upper periphery of the collar (58).



RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,  
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
20 April 2006

**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*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No

PCT/GB2005/003136

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

B65B19/14 B65B59/00 B65D51/20 B65D25/04 B65D85/10

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)

B65B B65D B25J

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. |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A          | DE 102 09 753 A (FOCKE & CO)<br>18 September 2003 (2003-09-18)<br>paragraph '0049!; figures 1,9<br>abstract<br>-----         | 1,16                  |
| A          | US 5 509 522 A (LAIDLAW RONALD W)<br>23 April 1996 (1996-04-23)<br>the whole document<br>-----                               | 1,16                  |
| A          | US 3 270 486 A (THOMAS HALL CHARLES)<br>6 September 1966 (1966-09-06)<br>column 1, lines 11-30<br>-----                      | 1,16                  |
| A          | EP 0 141 629 A (TABAC FAB REUNIES SA)<br>15 May 1985 (1985-05-15)<br>cited in the application<br>the whole document<br>----- | 1,16                  |
| -/--       |                                                                                                                              |                       |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in 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.

\*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 January 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

08. 02. 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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

Authorized officer

Philippon, D

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2005/003136

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                 | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Y          | WO 95/32126 A (SEALRIGHT CO., INC)<br>30 November 1995 (1995-11-30)<br>page 4, line 10 - page 5, line 13<br>page 8, lines 4-36<br>figures<br>----- | 25, 29                |
| Y          | US 1 685 765 A (MANGAN MICHAEL J)<br>25 September 1928 (1928-09-25)<br>page 1, lines 56-84; figures<br>-----                                       | 25, 29                |
| A          | US 4 444 308 A (MACEWEN ET AL)<br>24 April 1984 (1984-04-24)<br>column 3, line 60 - column 5, line 20;<br>figures<br>-----                         | 25, 26,<br>29, 30, 32 |
| A          | FR 2 597 077 A (ALPHA ZAN ROBERT)<br>16 October 1987 (1987-10-16)<br>figures<br>-----                                                              | 26, 30                |
| A          | DE 85 23 837 U1 (BIRKMANN, WALDEMAR, 8560<br>LAUF, DE) 14 November 1985 (1985-11-14)<br>claims 1,7; figures<br>-----                               | 27, 28, 31            |
| A          | US 5 957 278 A (KRAWEC ET AL)<br>28 September 1999 (1999-09-28)<br>figures<br>-----                                                                | 27, 28,<br>31, 32     |
| A          | DE 633 413 C (RING CONTAINERS LIMITED)<br>27 July 1936 (1936-07-27)<br>the whole document<br>-----                                                 | 25, 29, 32            |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB2005/003136

## 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.:  
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 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.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB2005 /003136

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-24

Apparatus and method for the production of a customized container of cigarettes in which a number of cigarettes pre-selected by a customer is removed from a reservoir and packed into a container

---

2. claims: 25-32

Air-tight container for cigarettes, comprising a lid portion, a body portion, a collar and a moisture impermeable membrane

---

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/GB2005/003136

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |    | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)                                                                                                                          | Publication<br>date                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DE 10209753                               | A  | 18-09-2003          | AU 2003218689 A1<br>BR 0308259 A<br>CN 1639008 A<br>WO 03074361 A1<br>EP 1480882 A1<br>JP 2005518998 T<br>US 2005145259 A1                          | 16-09-2003<br>04-01-2005<br>13-07-2005<br>12-09-2003<br>01-12-2004<br>30-06-2005<br>07-07-2005                             |
| US 5509522                                | A  | 23-04-1996          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |
| US 3270486                                | A  | 06-09-1966          | CH 406043 A<br>GB 992526 A                                                                                                                          | 15-01-1966<br>19-05-1965                                                                                                   |
| EP 0141629                                | A  | 15-05-1985          | BE 900913 A1<br>CH 660865 A5<br>DE 3462005 D1<br>FR 2554085 A1<br>GB 2148836 A<br>IT 1179793 B                                                      | 15-02-1985<br>29-05-1987<br>19-02-1987<br>03-05-1985<br>05-06-1985<br>16-09-1987                                           |
| WO 9532126                                | A  | 30-11-1995          | AU 1336795 A                                                                                                                                        | 18-12-1995                                                                                                                 |
| US 1685765                                | A  | 25-09-1928          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |
| US 4444308                                | A  | 24-04-1984          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |
| FR 2597077                                | A  | 16-10-1987          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |
| DE 8523837                                | U1 | 14-11-1985          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |
| US 5957278                                | A  | 28-09-1999          | AU 6351498 A<br>CA 2203596 A1<br>DE 19818267 A1<br>FR 2762481 A1<br>NL 1008935 C2<br>NL 1008935 A1<br>NL 1010955 C2<br>NL 1010955 A1<br>NZ 330246 A | 29-10-1998<br>24-10-1998<br>29-10-1998<br>30-10-1998<br>12-01-1999<br>27-10-1998<br>15-06-1999<br>29-01-1999<br>24-09-1998 |
| DE 633413                                 | C  | 27-07-1936          | NONE                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |