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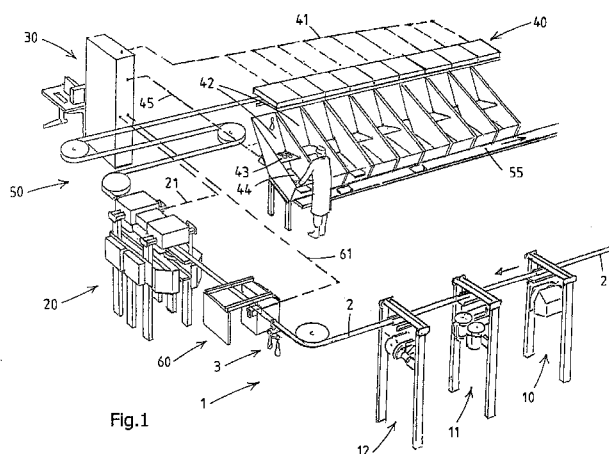
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- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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(54) Title: IN-LINE BATCHING



(57) Abstract: An installation for processing slaughtered animal parts of slaughtered animals and forming batches each containing one or more slaughtered animal parts, which installation comprises: - a conveying system (1) with a single conveying device or with a plurality of conveying devices, - at least one slaughtered animal treatment device (10,11,12) positioned along the path of a conveying device, - a first weighing device (20) for determining the weight of the one or more slaughtered animal parts carried by a product carrier (3), - an installation control device (30) comprising: - slaughtered animal part position determining means which pertain to the conveying system and know substantially continuously the position of each slaughtered animal part in the conveying system, - memory means wherein, for each slaughtered animal part in the conveying system, at least one memory field is present for the weight, determined by the first weighing device, of the slaughtered animal part, and - a batching device which is positioned along the path of a conveying device for forming batches each containing one or more slaughtered animal parts.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/NL2009/000060

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A22C21/00 A22C17/00 G01G19/14 G01G19/38

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)

A22C G01G G01B B07C B65B

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 372 099 A (LINVILLE) 8 February 1983 (1983-02-08) the whole document -----	1, 3, 4, 6, 20, 34, 35
A	WO 00/23771 A (SCANVAEGT INTERNATIONAL A/S) 27 April 2000 (2000-04-27) the whole document -----	1, 34, 35
A	US 6 151 866 A (CONNELL) 28 November 2000 (2000-11-28) the whole document -----	1, 5, 6, 34, 35
A	GB 1 488 346 A (BROOK) 12 October 1977 (1977-10-12) page 2, line 35 - page 3, line 32; figure 1 -----	1, 4, 34, 35

☐ 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

28 September 2009

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11/12/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 32

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 32

Claim 32 is directed to a "slaughtered animal part batching device according to one or more of the preceding claims". However, none of claims 1 to 31 is directed to a "slaughtered animal part batching device" per se. The subject matter of claim 32 is therefore not defined and the claim could hence not be searched.

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, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2)PCT declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NL2009/000060

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.: 32
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 32
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 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:

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of 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.:
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.:
1-31, 34, 35 insofar as related to claim 1

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-31, 34-35 insofar as related to claim 1

Installation for processing slaughtered animal parts of slaughtered animals and forming batches each containing one or more slaughtered animal parts, wherein a portion of the conveying system forms a buffer section.

2. claims: 33, 35 insofar as related to claim 33

Slaughtered animal batching device with hanging product carriers with movable bottom.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/NL2009/000060

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4372099	A	08-02-1983	NONE	
WO 0023771	A	27-04-2000	AU 6189699 A CA 2347538 A1 GB 2358478 A NO 20011888 A US 6533125 B1	08-05-2000 27-04-2000 25-07-2001 15-06-2001 18-03-2003
US 6151866	A	28-11-2000	NONE	
GB 1488346	A	12-10-1977	NONE	