

(19)



(11)

EP 2 243 714 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
24.04.2013 Bulletin 2013/17

(51) Int Cl.:
B65D 51/18 (2006.01) B65D 41/62 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **08805306.1**

(86) International application number:
PCT/ES2008/000476

(22) Date of filing: **03.07.2008**

(87) International publication number:
WO 2009/101220 (20.08.2009 Gazette 2009/34)

(54) **Beverage can having a protective cover.**

Getränkedose mit einer Schutzabdeckung.

Boîte-boissons avec une gaine de protection.

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT
RO SE SI SK TR**

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(30) Priority: **12.02.2008 ES 200800291 U**

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(43) Date of publication of application:
27.10.2010 Bulletin 2010/43

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Description

Object of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a beverage can having protective cover.

[0002] More specifically, the object of the invention is a cover the purpose of which consists of being configured as a protective element, especially with a hygienic nature, for beverage cans, by means of which the suitable hygiene conditions which the surface of the can will have for safely placing it in contact with the mouth and drinking directly from the can are assured in an effective and simple manner, without fearing the presence therein of dirt and possible bacteria before breaking its seal.

Field of Application

[0003] The field of application of the present invention is comprised within the industry dedicated to the manufacture of containers.

Background of the Invention

[0004] As is known, beverage cans are a type of container which is widely used and the main advantage of which consists of the ease that they provide for their use without needing to use glasses or other vessels for suitably and comfortably consuming the content thereof suitably. However, said type of container has a significant drawback, which is given by the fact that during its transport and/or storage, which can be quite long, the cans can easily accumulate dirt of any type, from simple dust to any type of substance which can possibly be spilled or accumulate thereon, to excrement and urine of different animals (rats, cockroaches, ants, flies) which generally move around without control in warehouses and similar installations.

[0005] Said drawback is partially solved, in some cases, by means of the plastic wrapping of the packs or groups of cans which certain companies use. However, in addition to the fact that said wrappings do not completely cover the cans since they are usually partially open, they do not incorporate any type of safety seal and, on the other hand, when said packs are divided into individual cans or groups of cans of a smaller number, the wrapping is broken or directly removed, the cans again being at the mercy of possible anti-hygienic, even pathogenic, elements which can reach the people's mouths if they drink directly from the can.

[0006] It would therefore be desirable to create some type of protective element assuring the hygiene conditions of the upper surface of each can until the exact time at which it is consumed by the user, this being the main objective of the present invention, with regard to which, on the other hand, it must be indicated that the existence of any other one having similar technical, structural and configuration features is not known.

[0007] Documents JP 7 315379 A, JP 9 207956 A, WO 03/089328 A1 show examples of beverage cans being provided with a protective, hygienic cover. Document US 5,139,163 shows a protective cover for beverage cans according to the preamble of claim 1.

Description of the Invention

[0008] Thus, the protective cover for beverage cans proposed by the present invention propose is configured in itself as an outstanding novelty within its field since, according to its application, the objectives indicated above as suitable are reached, the characterizing details which it incorporates and which make it possible being suitably included in the claims attached to the present specification.

[0009] Specifically, the proposed cover essentially consists of a body, made with a suitably impermeable and sufficiently strong material, preferably fine plastic, cellophane or the like, preferably transparent, which, adopting a configuration similar to that of the can, being placed, for example, using the technique of heat applied on the material (heat forming), among other possibilities, tightly surrounds at least its upper half, being able to optionally cover it entirely. Said cover advantageously has a tear system which can be any of those which are conventionally known, which will assure the hygiene of said part of the can, optionally incorporating side flanges for facilitating its opening.

[0010] Additionally, and in order to provide a greater and better protection, the lower part of the cover can incorporate, at its inner part, a band with adhesive or the like which, in addition to increasing the fixing thereof to the can to prevent it from being accidentally detached while it is handled, seals off the area that it covers, providing greater hygiene assurance for consumption.

[0011] The protective cover for beverage cans therefore represents a structure with structural and constitutive features unknown up until now for such purpose, which reasons, combined with its practical usefulness, provide it with sufficient grounds for obtaining the exclusive privilege which is sought.

Description of the Drawings

[0012] To complement the description which is being made and for the purpose of aiding to better understand the features of the invention, a set of drawings is attached to the present specification as an integral part thereof, in which the following has been depicted with an illustrative and non-limiting character:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of an embodiment of the protective cover for beverage cans object of the invention, suitably arranged on the can for which it is intended, the way in which it is placed as well as the parts or elements that it consists of being seen. Figure 2 shows a respective embodiment of the cov-

er object of the invention, completing covering the can.

Figure 3 shows an example not according to the invention.

Preferred Embodiment of the Invention

[0013] In view of the mentioned figures, and according to the numbers adopted, a preferred embodiment of the invention can be observed therein, which comprises the parts and elements indicated and described in detail below.

[0014] As is observed in said figures, the cover in question basically consists of a body (1), made with a suitably impermeable and sufficiently strong material, preferably then plastic, cellophane or the like, preferably transparent, which adopts a configuration similar to that of the can (2), i.e., a cylindrical configuration open at its lower part (1 a) and closed at its upper base (1 b) and with dimensions slightly larger than those of the can (2), such that it covers the latter at the upper part and laterally surrounds at least its upper half in a tight manner, optionally being able to cover it entirely.

[0015] Said body (1) has at least one tear means, such as a partially pre-die cut strip (3) or any other similar known system, there optionally being at its end at least one flange (4) which facilitates holding it, thus assuring the hygiene of the upper surface of the can (2) in which the corresponding ring pull (6) is located, in order to be able to drink directly from such can.

[0016] Additionally, and in order to provide a greater and better hygienic protection of the can (2), the lower part of the body (1) forming the cover can incorporate, at its inner face, a band (5), which band is provided with an adhesive or with some other type of similar fixing, which keeps said lower part of the body (1) adhered to the side surface of the can (2), sealing off the space between both elements (cover and can) from the entry of any type of foreign element.

[0017] Finally, it must be emphasized, as is observed in Figure 2, that the cover formed by the body (1) can optionally cover the can (2) completely, in which case said body (1) will logically not be open at its lower part.

Claims

1. Beverage can (2) having a protective cover in order to assure the suitable hygiene conditions which the surface of the can will have to be able to drink directly from it, wherein the protective cover consists of a body (1), made from an impermeable material having a predefined strength, which adopts a cylindrical configuration preferably open at its lower part (1 a) and closed at its upper base (1 b) and with dimensions slightly larger than those of the can (2), such that it covers the latter at the upper base part in which a corresponding pull tab (6) is located, wherein said

body (1) has at least one tear means, such as a partially pre-die cut strip (3) or any other suitable system additionally and in order to provide a greater and better hygienic protection of the can (2), the lower part of the body (1) forming the cover incorporates, at its inner face, a band (5), which band is provided with an adhesive or with some other type of similar fixing, which keeps said lower part of the body (1) adhered to the side surface of the can (2), sealing off the space between cover and can (2), **characterized in that**, the cover laterally surrounds at least the upper half of the can in a tight manner.

2. Beverage can (2) having a protective cover according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the body (1) covers the can (2) completely, being closed at its lower part.
3. Beverage can (2) having a protective cover according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the cover is made from thin plastic, cellophane or the like, preferably transparent.
4. Beverage can (2) having a protective cover according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the cover has at the end of the tear means at least one flange (4) which facilitates holding it.

Patentansprüche

1. Getränkedose (2) mit einem Schutzüberzug, um geeignete Hygienebedingungen sicherzustellen, welche die Oberfläche der Dose aufweisen soll, um unmittelbar daraus zu trinken, wobei der Schutzüberzug aus einem Körper (1) besteht, der aus einem impermeablen Material mit einer vordefinierten Festigkeit hergestellt ist, welcher eine zylindrische Konfiguration annimmt, vorzugsweise offen an dessen unteren Teil (1a) und geschlossen an dessen oberer Basis (1b) und mit Abmessungen, die geringfügig größer sind als die der Dose (2), derart, dass er letztere am oberen Basisteil bedeckt, in welchem eine korrespondierende Aufreißlasche (6) angeordnet ist, wobei der Körper (1) zumindest ein Aufreißmittel aufweist, wie einen teilweise vorgestanzten Streifen (3) oder jedes andere geeignete System, wobei zusätzlich und um einen größeren und besseren hygienischen Schutz der Dose (2) bereitzustellen, der untere Teil des Körpers (1), der den Überzug formt, an dessen Innenseite ein Band (5) enthält, welches mit einem Haftmittel oder mit einer anderen Art einer ähnlichen Befestigung versehen ist, welche gewährleistet, dass der untere Teil des Körpers (1) an der Seitenfläche der Dose (2) anhaften bleibt, wobei der Raum zwischen dem Überzug und der Dose (2) abgedichtet wird, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Überzug seitlich zumindest die obere Hälfte der Do-

se (2) in einer festen Art und Weise umschließt.

2. Getränkedose (2) mit einem Schutzüberzug nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Körper (1), der an dessen unteren Teil geschlossen ist, die Dose (2) vollständig umfasst. 5
3. Getränkedose (2) mit einem Schutzüberzug nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Überzug aus dünnem Kunststoff, Zellophan oder dergleichen, vorzugsweise transparent, gefertigt ist. 10
4. Getränkedose (2) mit einem Schutzüberbezug nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Überzug am Ende des Aufreißmittels zumindest einen Flansch (4) aufweist, welcher das Erfassen erleichtert. 15

Revendications

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1. Une canette de boisson (2) présentant une enveloppe de protection destinée à garantir les conditions d'hygiène adéquates disposée sur la surface de la canette de sorte que l'on puisse boire directement, où l'enveloppe de protection comprend un corps (1) réalisé dans un matériau imperméable présentant une résistance prédéfinie qui adopte une forme cylindrique, ouvert de préférence sur le bas (1a) et fermé sur le haut (1b), et présentant des dimensions excédant légèrement celles de la canette (2) de sorte qu'il couvre le haut de la canette qui est dotée d'une languette (6) correspondante 25
où le corps (1) précité est muni d'au moins un moyen d'arrachage, comme une languette d'arrachage pré-découpée (3), ou tout autre système adapté, **carac-** 30
térisé en ce que,
de manière additionnelle et dans le but de fournir une meilleure et plus grande protection hygiénique de la canette (2), la partie inférieure du corps (1) formant l'enveloppe comprend, sur sa face intérieure, une bande (5) dotée d'un adhésif ou d'un autre moyen de fixation similaire, qui fait adhérer la partie inférieure du corps (1) précitée sur la surface latérale de la canette (2), scellant ainsi l'espace entre l'en- 40
veloppe et la canette (2), **caractérisé en ce que** l'enveloppe entoure au moins la moitié supérieure de la canette de manière serrée. 45
2. Une canette de boisson (2) présentant une enveloppe de protection conformément à la Revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** le corps (1) recouvre entièrement la canette (2) et est fermé sur sa face inférieure. 50
3. Une canette de boisson (2) présentant une enveloppe de protection conformément à la Revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** l'enveloppe se compose 55

d'un plastique fin, de cellophane ou d'un matériau similaire, de préférence transparent.

4. Une canette de boisson (2) présentant une enveloppe de protection conformément à la Revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** l'enveloppe présente, à l'extrémité du moyen d'arrachage, au moins une languette (4) qui facilite la prise en main.

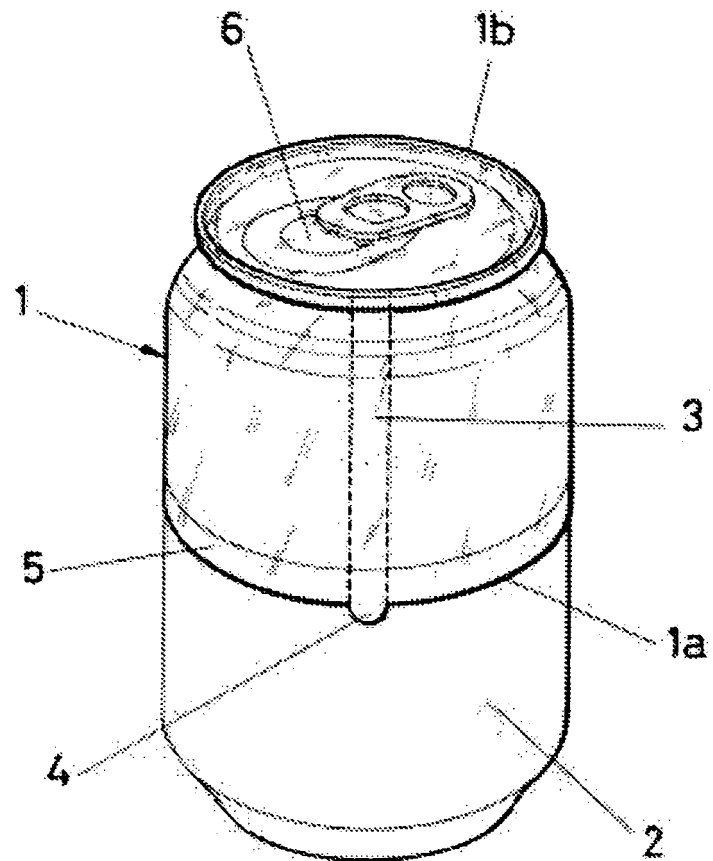


FIG.1

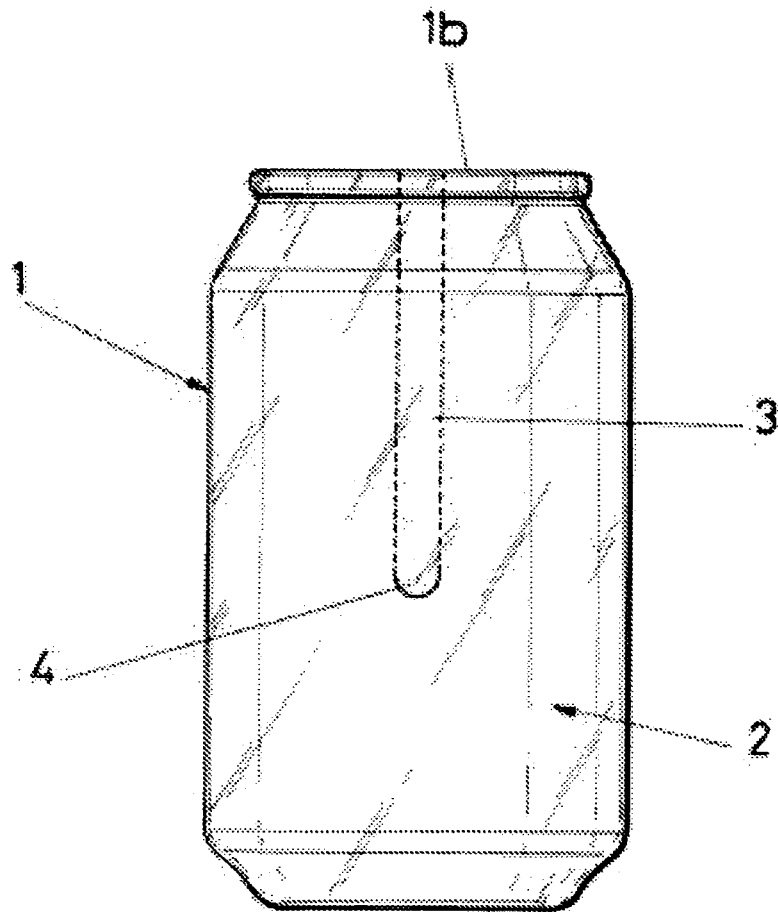


FIG. 2

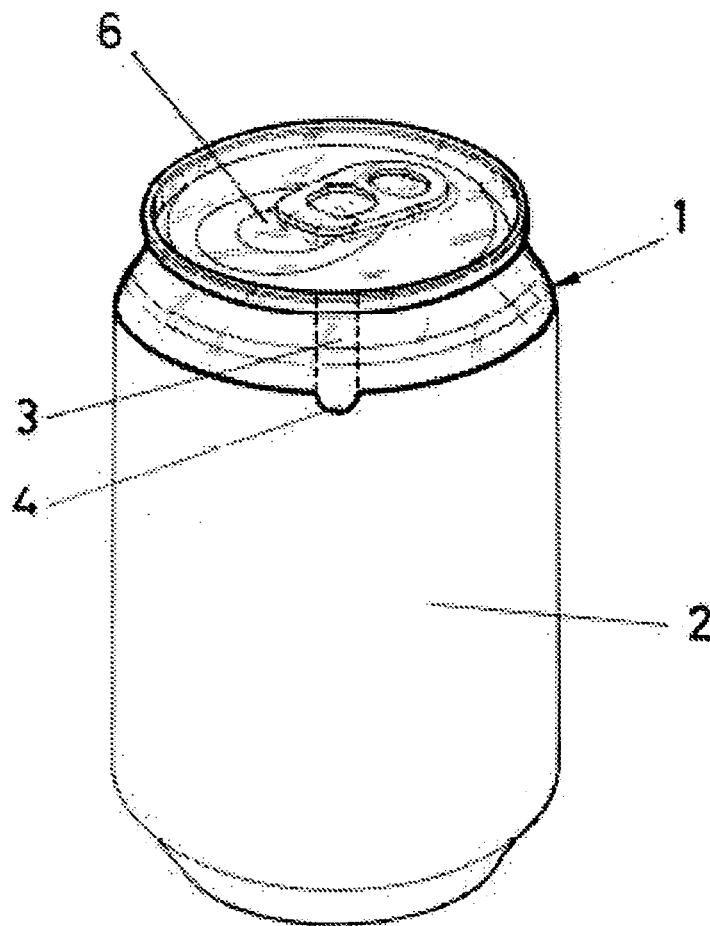


FIG.3

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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