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*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: SEALING ELEMENT MOUNTING

(57) Abstract: A sealing assembly (20) for sealing against a piece of oilfield equipment (50) in a wellbore. The sealing assembly has a support housing (30) and the support housing defines an inner wall (31) and a port (34) configured for fluid communication with the wellbore. Such inner wall defines a stop shoulder (32), and the support housing has a limit structure (33a,b) proximate one or both end(s). A sealing element (40) is contained within the support housing. A ring (42a,b) is connected to the sealing element at one or both end(s). Each ring is configured for slidable movement along the inner wall of the support housing and further configured to float between the stop shoulder and the limit structure.

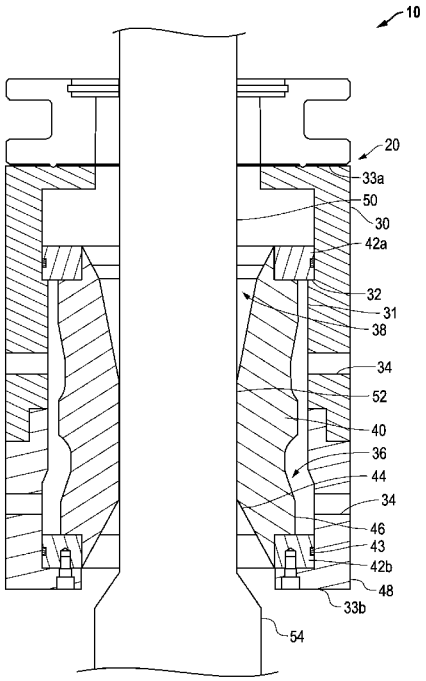


*FIG. 1*

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— *with amended claims (Art. 19(1))*

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**AMENDED CLAIMS**
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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1-22. (canceled)

23. A sealing assembly (20) for sealing against a piece of oilfield equipment (50) in a wellbore, comprising:

a support housing (30) having an inner wall (31);

a sealing element (40) contained within the support housing (30), the sealing element (40) having an inner diameter (44) and an outer diameter (46);

a first ring (42a) connected to the sealing element (40) at a first end, wherein the first ring (42a) is configured for slidable movement along the inner wall (31) of the support housing (30); and

a second ring (42b) connected to the sealing element (40) at a second end opposite the first end,

characterized by:

the support housing (30) having at least one port (34) configured for fluid communication with the wellbore, wherein the outer diameter (46) of the sealing element (40), the first ring (42a), the second ring (42b), and the inner wall (31) of the support housing (30) define a chamber (36) in fluid communication with the port (34).

24. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein the chamber (36) is in fluid communication with the wellbore via the port (34).

25. The sealing assembly of claim 24, wherein the port (34) and the chamber (36) communicate wellbore pressure to the outer diameter (46) of the sealing element (40).

26. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein a fluid-tight seal (43) is positioned between the first ring (42a) and the inner wall (31) of the support housing (30).

27. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein the slidable movement of the first ring (42a) is restricted in at least one direction.

28. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein a fluid-tight seal (43) is positioned between the second ring (42b) and the inner wall (31) of the support housing (30).

29. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein the second ring (42b) is fixed relative to the support housing (30).

30. The sealing assembly of claim 23, wherein the second ring (42b) is configured for slidable movement along the inner wall (31) of the support housing (30).

31. The sealing assembly of claim 30, wherein the slidable movement of the second ring (42b) is restricted in at least one direction.

32. A method for sealing against a piece of oilfield equipment (50) in a wellbore, wherein the piece of oilfield equipment (50) has an outer diameter of varying size, comprising:

longitudinally displacing the piece of oilfield equipment (50) within the wellbore;

engaging an inner diameter (44) of a sealing element (40) with the outer diameter of the piece of oilfield equipment (50), wherein the sealing element (40) is contained in a support housing (30), wherein a first ring (42a) is connected to the sealing element (40) at a first end, and wherein a second ring (42b) is connected to the sealing element (40) at a second end opposite the first end;

slidably moving the first ring (42a) in response to the longitudinally displacing, wherein the first ring (42a) slidably moves within the support housing (30);

and characterized by:

deforming the sealing element (40) into a chamber (36) in fluid communication with the wellbore in response to the longitudinally displacing, wherein the

chamber (36) is defined by an outer diameter (46) of the sealing element (40), the first ring (42a), the second ring (42b), and an inner wall (31) of the support housing (30).

33. The method according to claim 32, further comprising pressurizing the outer diameter (46) of the sealing element (40) with wellbore pressure via at least one port (34) in the support housing (30).

34. The method according to claim 32, further comprising restricting movement of the first ring (42a) in at least one direction.

35. The method according to claim 32, further comprising maintaining the second ring (42b) in a fixed position relative to the support housing (30).

36. The method according to claim 32, further comprising slidably moving the second ring (42b) within the support housing (30) in response to the longitudinally displacing the piece of oilfield equipment (50).

37. The method according to claim 36, further comprising restricting movement of the second ring (42b) in at least one direction.