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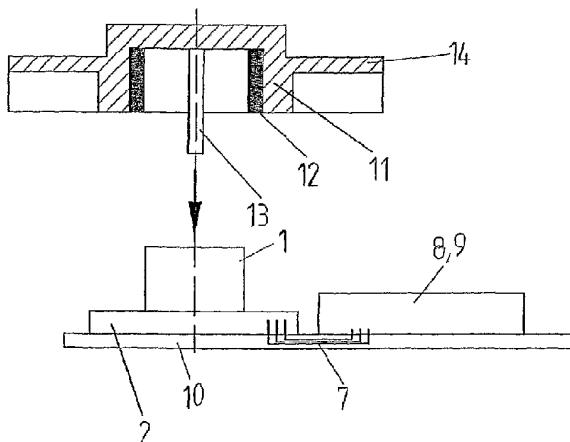
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(54) Title: FILTER BLOWER FOR GAS MASKS OR HOODS

(54) Bezeichnung: FILTERGEBLÄSE FÜR ATEMSCHUTZMASKEN ODER -HAUBEN



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a filter blower for gas masks or hoods which are used in hazardous environments. The direct-current motor comprises a fixed stator coil module (1) and a magnet rotor which is rotatable around the periphery thereof and which also forms the blower wheel. The coils (5), the connections and electrical connection lines (7), together with an upstream motor control and voltage converter module (8,9) are embedded in a non-conducting casting compound. Power is supplied by an intrinsically safe voltage with a higher current value, corresponding to the required motor output, from an intrinsically safe accumulator or battery block (15). The filter blower, despite its high performance, is intrinsically safe in all parts and can be used in explosion protection zone 0.

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Zur Erklärung der Zweibuchstaben-Codes und der anderen Abkürzungen wird auf die Erklärungen ("Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations") am Anfang jeder regulären Ausgabe der PCT-Gazette verwiesen.

(57) Zusammenfassung: Bei einem Filtergebläse für Atemschutzmasken oder -hauben, die in explosionsgefährdeten Bereichen zum Einsatz kommen, weist der Gleichstrommotor ein feststehendes Stator-Spulenmodul (1) und einen um dessen Umfang drehbaren und gleichzeitig das Gehäuserad bildenden Magnetrotor auf. Die Spulen (5), die Anschlüsse und elektrischen Verbindungsleitungen (7) sowie ein vorgeschaltetes Motorsteuerungs- und Spannungswandlermodul (8, 9) sind in eine nicht leitende Vergussmasse (6) eingebettet. Die Energieversorgung erfolgt bei noch als eigensicher geltender Spannung mit einem entsprechend der geforderte Motorleistung höheren Stromwert aus einem eigensicher ausgeführten Akku- oder Batterieblock (15). Das Filtergebläse ist trotz hoher Leistung in allen Teilen eigensicher und kann in der Explosionschutzzone "O" eingesetzt werden.

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Description

5 Filter and blower unit for breathing masks or bonnets

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a filter and blower unit for breathing masks or bonnets with a breathing air filter 10 that is driven by a direct current motor and designed for use in potentially explosive areas.

BACKGROUND

Breathing masks or bonnets supplied with air via a 15 breathing air filter are commonly equipped with a filter and blower unit driven by a direct current motor to increase breathing comfort, that is, to make breathing through the filter material easier and facilitate long-term assignments of the wearer as well as the use of 20 specific filter types.

Filter and blower units are often required to be designed 25 for use in potentially explosive areas. This entails the requirement to design the direct current motor that drives the filter and blower unit in such a way that any sparks that may occur during its operation cannot ignite the potentially explosive atmosphere. Motors of filter and blower units that are no longer considered 30 intrinsically safe due to their high rating and cannot be operated in potentially explosive atmospheres must therefore meet the requirements of the "d" type of protection - i.e. have an explosion-proof enclosure. An explosion-proof enclosure, however, is a disadvantage for filter and blower units as the manufacturing effort for 35 motors of that design is very high due to the required narrow widths of gap and great gap lengths between the

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motor enclosure opening and the motor shaft, which makes such motors expensive. Blower motors designed according to the "d" type of protection are also quite heavy because of the measures required to neutralize the 5 ignition power that can occur inside the motor enclosure. In addition, they cannot be used in the "0" zone.

10 Motors not designed according to the "d" type of protection can only be operated in an explosive atmosphere if power input including inductivity are not too high, i.e. still in the intrinsically safe range ("i" type of protection). The high-performance direct current motors used for filter and blower units do not meet this requirement.

15 It is an aim of the invention to develop a filter and blower for a filter and blower unit to be used in zone "0" potentially explosive atmospheres that is intrinsically safe, can be operated at high performance, 20 and manufactured at comparatively low cost.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention achieves this aim by providing the filter and blower comprising the characteristics described in 25 claim 1. The dependent claims disclose further characteristics and advantageous improvements of the invention.

30 In particular, the invention provides a filter and blower unit for breathing masks or bonnets with a breathing air filter that is driven by a direct current motor and designed for use in potentially explosive areas, characterized in that the direct current motor comprises a fixed stator coil module and a magnetic rotor rotating 35 around the peripheral surface of said stator coil module, in that the coils located at the stator coil module and

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their electric terminals are embedded in a non-conductive casting compound, in that a motor control module and a voltage converter module are located upstream of the stator coil module for power input via shielded electric lines that are also embedded in a non-conductive casting compound, and in that the required power is supplied at a current to voltage ratio at which the voltage does not exceed the value required for intrinsic safety.

5 10 Preferably, the magnetic rotor comprises a shaft centered in a pot-type case that is pivoted in a bearing shell formed in the center of the stator coil module as well as magnets attached peripherally to its inner surface, and blades attached peripherally to its outer surface.

15 15 Preferably the stator coil module, the motor control module and the voltage converter module are located on a base circuit board on which the electric connecting lines run internally or are embedded in a casting compound.

20 20 Power may be supplied from an intrinsically safe accumulator or battery pack.

25 The inventive idea starts from an external rotor motor with an internal stator and fixed coils (stator coil module) and fixed electric terminals for the coils as well as a magnetic rotor arranged pivotably on the perimeter of the stator to create a magnetic field, and consists in embedding the electric connecting lines and 30 30 coil terminals as well as the upstream motor control and voltage converter modules of the motor in a non-conductive casting compound while supplying power at a voltage that is still in the intrinsically safe range and an accordingly higher current for the required motor 35 rating.

A filter and blower unit designed in this way is intrinsically safe as regards power supply, power input, and motor operation despite the fact that its high output is above the criteria of intrinsic safety; it is of simple design and can be manufactured easily and at low cost, it is more lightweight than filter and blower units designed according to the "d" type of protection and can be used in a zone "0" potentially explosive atmosphere that has the highest safety requirements.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An embodiment of the invention is explained in greater detail below with reference to the figures. Wherein:

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Fig. 1 shows a lateral view of a filter and blower unit with power supply, a partially sectional view and exploded diagrammatic view, and

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Fig. 2 shows a top view of the stator and the power supply of the direct current motor for the filter and blower unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The filter and blower unit is designed as an external rotor motor in which the armature is a fixed stator coil module 1 that is fixedly mounted on a stator circuit board 2. The stator coil module 1 includes coil cores 4 with a coil 5 wound onto each of them that are arranged concentrically around a bearing shell 3. The components, electric leads and terminals of the stator coil module 1 and the stator circuit board 2 are embedded in a non-conductive casting compound 6. Via electric connecting lines 7, the stator circuit board 2 is connected to a motor control module 8 and a voltage converter module 9 whose circuit boards 8a, 9a are also embedded in a casting compound. The stator coil module 1 and the motor

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control and voltage converter modules 8, 9 are mounted on a base circuit board 10 on which the connecting lines 7 are also embedded in a non-conductive casting compound. The stator coil module 1 is encompassed on its periphery by a magnetic rotor 12 in a pot-type case 11 to generate a magnetic field, said rotor being rotatably mounted around the stator coil module 1 using a shaft 13 centered in the pot-type case 11 and supported by the bearing shell 3. Blades 14 are attached to the outer perimeter of the pot-type case 11 that can be rotated around the stator coil module 1.

As the blower motor (direct current motor) used is an external rotor motor in which both the coils 5 and their connections to the voltage source 15 are fixed and embedded in a casting compound 6, electric output emerging during operation cannot get outside, which means that the direct current motor is intrinsically safe even without the otherwise required explosion-proof enclosure according to the "d" type of protection. A voltage converter module 9 that provides a high motor output in excess of the limits of intrinsic safety is located upstream of the motor control module 8 for power supply and direction of rotation identification and is also shielded by a casting compound, making this portion of power supply intrinsically safe as well. Power is supplied to the voltage converter module 9 at a still intrinsically safe current to voltage ratio, i.e. at a voltage of, for example, 6 to 8 V that still meets the requirements of intrinsic safety, running openly from an intrinsically safe accumulator or battery pack 15, and a higher current that corresponds to the required motor output.

35 In the embodiment described above, the motor of the filter and blower unit is considered intrinsically safe

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in all its parts - from power input to operation - and can be used in potentially explosive areas such as zone "0" potentially explosive atmospheres where there is a lasting or frequent explosion hazard. In addition, the 5 blower unit is of a simple design and lightweight.

Throughout this specification, including the claims, where the context permits, the term "comprise" and variants thereof such as "comprises" or "comprising" are 10 to be interpreted as including the stated integer or integers without necessarily excluding any other integers.

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List of reference symbols

5	1	Stator coil module
	2	Stator circuit board
	3	Bearing shell
	4	Coil core
	5	Coil
	6	Casting compound
10	7	Electric connecting lines
	8	Motor control module
	8a	Circuit board of 8
	9	Voltage converter module
	9a	Circuit board of 9
15	10	Base circuit board
	11	Pot-type case
	12	Magnetic rotor
	13	Shaft
	14	Blades
20	15	Power source (accumulator or battery pack)

Claims

5 1. A filter and blower unit for breathing masks or bonnets with a breathing air filter that is driven by a direct current motor and designed for use in potentially explosive areas, characterized in that the direct current motor comprises a fixed stator coil module and a magnetic rotor rotating around the peripheral surface of said stator coil module, in that the coils located at the stator coil module and their electric terminals are embedded in a non-conductive casting compound, in that a motor control module and a voltage converter module are located upstream of the stator coil module for power input via shielded electric lines that are also embedded in a non-conductive casting compound, and in that the required power is supplied at a current to voltage ratio at which the voltage does not exceed the value required for intrinsic safety.

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2. The filter and blower unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the magnetic rotor comprises a shaft centered in a pot-type case that is pivoted in a bearing shell formed in the center of the stator coil module as well as magnets attached peripherally to its inner surface, and blades attached peripherally to its outer surface.

3. The filter and blower unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the stator coil module, the motor control module and the voltage converter module are located on a base circuit board on which the

electric connecting lines run internally or are embedded in a casting compound.

4. The filter and blower unit according to claim 1, characterized in that power is supplied from an intrinsically safe accumulator or battery pack.

5. A filter and blower unit substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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FIG. 2

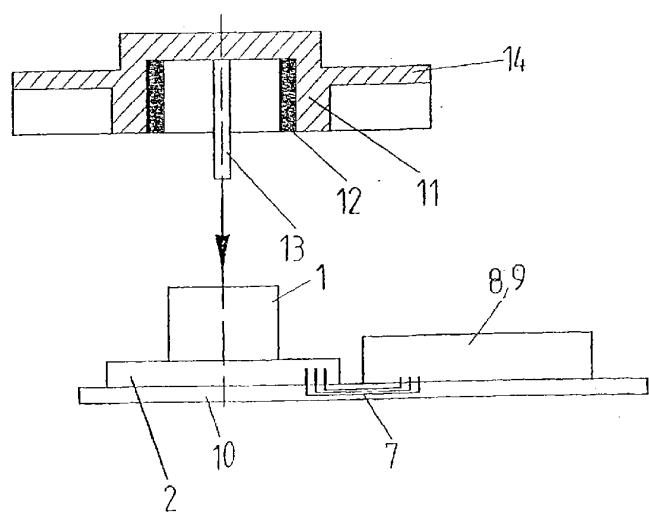
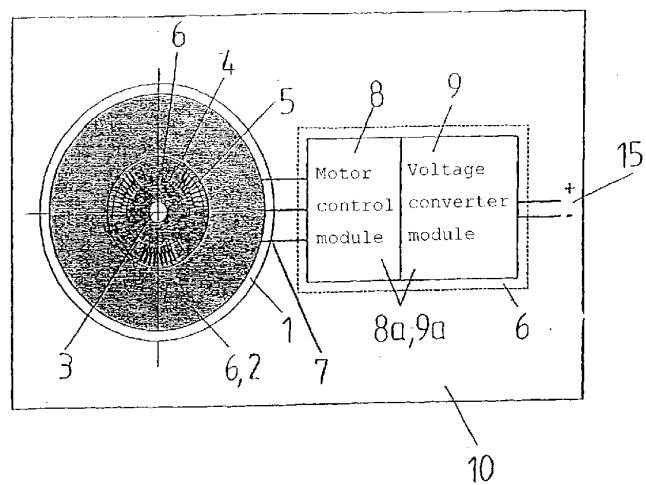


FIG. 1