



SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention. This report shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Application number:

EP 16 80 27 98

Classification of the application (IPC):

F25D 11/02, F25D 11/00, F25D 17/08, F25D 17/04

Technical fields searched (IPC):

F25D

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
X	EP 1806553 A1 (SHARP KK [JP]) 11 July 2007 (2007-07-11) * paragraphs [0068], [0080], [0111], [0125]; figures 3-5 *	1
X	US 5458186 A (LEE CHING H [KR] ET AL) 17 October 1995 (1995-10-17) * figures 3,6 *	1
X	US 5398599 A (WOO KI C [KR]) 21 March 1995 (1995-03-21) * column 5, line 61 - line 68; figure 1 *	1

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R. 62a, 63) has been carried out.

Claim(s) completely searchable:1

Claim(s) not searched:2

Reason for the limitation of the search:

[0001] In reply to the invitation to indicate the independent claim on which the search is to be based, the applicant argued that the independent claims are alternative solutions to a particular problem, where it is inappropriate to cover these alternatives by a single claim. However, this argumentation cannot be followed because the claims do not qualify as "alternative solutions" according to Rule 43(2)(c) EPC.

[0002] Condition (c) allows claims that are "alternative solutions to a particular problem". However, according to the description, see page 4, lines 11-14, 22-24 and page 11, lines 14-17 and 24-27, the features differentiating the independent claims address two different particular problems; claim 1 aims to suppress increase of power consumption while claim 2 is directed to the prevention of degrading of freshness of stored products.

[0003] Therefore, the exception of Rule 43(2)(c) EPC does not justify the number of independent claims of the present application.

[0004] Thus, the search report has been drawn up on the basis of the first apparatus independent claim (Rule 62a(1) EPC).

The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.

Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 27 June 2018	Examiner Kuljis, Bruno
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X: particularly relevant if taken alone	P: intermediate document
Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	T: theory or principle underlying the invention
A: technological background	E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
O: non-written disclosure	D: document cited in the application
&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	L: document cited for other reasons

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INCOMPLETE SEARCH

[0005] The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the application will be further prosecuted on the basis of subject-matter for which a search has been carried out and that the claims should be limited to that subject-matter at a later stage of the proceedings (Rule 62a(2) EPC).

The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	27 June 2018	Kuljis, Bruno

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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|---|--|
| X: particularly relevant if taken alone | P: intermediate document |
| Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category | T: theory or principle underlying the invention |
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| O: non-written disclosure | D: document cited in the application |
| | L: document cited for other reasons |
| &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

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ANNEX TO SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number:

EP 16 80 27 98

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 27-06-2018
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1806553	A1	11-07-2007	EP	1806553 A1	11-07-2007
			RU	2345298 C1	27-01-2009
			US	2009193826 A1	06-08-2009
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			JP	3440118 B2	25-08-2003
			JP	H06165635 A	14-06-1994
			US	5398599 A	21-03-1995
			US	5498430 A	12-03-1996