

(19) **DANMARK**

(10) **DK/EP 2837745 T3**



Patent- og  
Varemærkestyrelsen

(12) **Oversættelse af  
europæisk patentskrift**

- 
- (51) Int.Cl.: **E 03 C 1/02 (2006.01)** **F 16 L 25/00 (2006.01)**
- (45) Oversættelsen bekendtgjort den: **2018-05-22**
- (80) Dato for Den Europæiske Patentmyndigheds bekendtgørelse om meddelelse af patentet: **2018-02-07**
- (86) Europæisk ansøgning nr.: **14177193.1**
- (86) Europæisk indleveringsdag: **2014-07-16**
- (87) Den europæiske ansøgnings publiceringsdag: **2015-02-18**
- (30) Prioritet: **2013-07-19 FI 20135788**
- (84) Designerede stater: **AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
- (73) Patenthaver: **Uponor Innovation AB, c/o Uponor AB , P.O. Box 101, 73061 Virsbo, Sverige**
- (72) Opfinder: **Laakso, Jyri, Raalantie 373, 01900 Nurmijärvi, Finland**
- (74) Fuldmægtig i Danmark: **Patrade A/S, Ceresbyen 75, 8000 Århus C, Danmark**
- (54) Benævnelse: **Termineringsboks eller væg-vinkelbøjning (væg-albue) til forbindelse mellem en rørledning og en haneanordning**
- (56) Fremdragne publikationer:  
**EP-A1- 0 538 197**  
**WO-A1-01/79738**  
**DE-A1- 3 504 127**



# DESCRIPTION

## TECHNICAL FIELD

**[0001]** The invention relates to a termination box or wall bend for connecting a conduit to a tap assembly, said termination box or wall bend comprising a body inside of which a tap elbow or tap fitting is mountable, which conduit comprises an inner utility pipe and an outer protective pipe, the protective pipe being provided with circumferential grooves on the outer face of it, the conduit being connectable to the tap elbow or tap fitting with a fastening sleeve, and the tap assembly being connectable to the tap elbow through a bushing or corresponding tunnel, said tap elbow being locked in place by a lid.

## TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

**[0002]** Water conduits in buildings are quite commonly connected to tap assemblies mounted on a wall surface by tap elbows or tap fittings. When conduits are mounted inside the wall structure it is extremely important that the conduit is connected to the tap elbow or corresponding tap fitting and further to the tap assembly so that the connections are watertight to prevent water leakage and damages caused by such leakages. Therefore the tap elbow / tap fitting is placed in a termination box and the water conduit is placed in a protective pipe to form a double wall structure (so-called pipe-in-pipe structure). This kind of mounting construction is quite well protected against leakages but however it may also cause some problems.

**[0003]** EP 0 538 197 A1 discloses a device which can be used as connection between a flexible pipeline and a fitting.

**[0004]** Because different conduit sizes may be used in different installations termination boxes must be designed so that they are able to receive various size conduits. It is not practical to design a termination box just for one conduit size. Due to this current pipe-in-pipe termination box systems have several sealings for different size conduits. This causes confusion and extra work for installers because they must select a correct sealing for each case and ensure the correct positioning of the sealing. Several sealings create also extra costs in investments and they are very sensible for conduit designs and tolerances in mountings.

As mentioned above the tap elbow is placed inside the termination box. In some current termination box designs the tap elbow is locked in place in a closed position by a lid. The lid comprises normally a base part and a sealing part. The sealing part seals the base part against the body part of the termination box as well as against the tap elbow. Both the body part of the termination box and the base part of the lid are provided with threads. The lid is mounted in its place by turning it in the threads. First one of the threads is provided with a nodule and respectively a groove is formed in the other thread, so that said nodule fits in said

groove locking the lid in its place. A disadvantage for this arrangement is that the nodule may be cut off, even when installed once. This may cause a risk of opening the thread over the years.

## **SUMMARY**

**[0005]** The objective of the present invention is to provide a novel and improved termination box or wall bend for connecting a conduit to a tap assembly. To this end the inventive termination box / wall bend is characterized in that the fastening sleeve is provided with a conduit locking mechanism formed of protrusions extending towards the inside of the fastening sleeve to grip to the grooves of the protective pipe, and a flexible sealing part arranged inside the fastening sleeve, which sealing part comprises a flexible conduit sealing resting, when the termination box or wall bend is in use and the protective pipe is received within the fastening sleeve, against the outer surface of the protective pipe for sealing the same and a sealing section for sealing the fastening sleeve to the body of the termination box or wall bend.

In one embodiment of the invention, the protrusions of the locking mechanism are flexible in the radial direction of the fastening sleeve to allow conduits of various sizes to be received in the fastening sleeve and stiff in the axial direction of the fastening sleeve to prevent the conduit to be pulled out of the fastening sleeve when the protrusions are gripped to the grooves of the protective pipe. Also the flexible conduit sealing is arranged to receive and seal conduits of various sizes.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the flexible sealing part further comprises a spring element extending between the protrusions of the locking mechanism and the inner side of the fastening sleeve for supporting flexibly the locking mechanism.

**[0006]** The locking mechanism can be formed as an integral part of the fastening sleeve or as a separate piece mounted in the fastening sleeve.

**[0007]** According to one aspect of the invention the lid locking the tap elbow or tap fitting in place in the body of the termination box or wall bend is provided with a bayonet connection arrangement comprising thread-like bayonet elements arranged on the outer circumferential face of the lid, each of which elements are provided with a notch, and in an inner circumferential face of an opening in the body of the termination box or wall bend counter elements for the bayonet elements are arranged to guide the lid in its place when the lid is turned either clockwise or counter clockwise.

**[0008]** Between the body of the termination box or wall bend and the back side of the lid a sealing element made of compressible material can be arranged to create a force pushing the lid outwards and keeping the counter elements of the body in the notches of the bayonet elements. Similar spring like effect can be arranged by other means as well, e.g. separate part or having it in the tunnel or body. Sealing element itself can be positioned also other locations as only in back side.

**[0009]** The present invention provides considerable advantages over the prior art. In the inventive sealing arrangement for connecting a conduit to the termination box or wall bend there is no need for different sealings for different size conduits, but the sealing included in the inventive arrangement fits for various conduit sizes. So the installation work is easier and simpler than before. The sealing arrangement resists effectively the force of pulling out the conduit because a separate mechanical locking system is integrated in the arrangement. In the inventive arrangement to lock the tap elbow or tap fitting in place in the termination box or wall bend a bayonet arrangement in the lid is used instead of the nodule and groove system of the prior art. This makes the installation simple and secured, which can also easily be reopened when needed.

**[0010]** Other advantages and characteristic features of the invention are set out below by detailed disclosure of the invention, wherein the invention is described with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawing, to the details of which the invention is not exclusively limited.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

##### **[0011]**

Fig. 1 shows a termination box partly in a cross-sectional view.

Figs. 2A and 2B show how conduits of different sizes can be connected to the termination box by the inventive sealing arrangement.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of the termination box.

Fig. 4 shows in a cross-sectional view an embodiment of the sealing arrangement with a separate conduit locking mechanism.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

**[0012]** As already explained earlier the present invention is directed to handle and solve the problems relating to the sealing of the connection between a conduit and a termination box or a wall bend and to the fixing of a tap elbow or a tap fitting in said termination box.

**[0013]** The drawing shows a termination box, inside of which a tap elbow is mounted. However, it is to be understood that the invention relates also to a wall bend, where the conduit and/or media pipe is bend 90 deg and fixed to wall by wall bend supports and media pipe by straight connector, i.e. by a tap fitting. This applies to all termination box and tap fitting definitions.

**[0014]** In the drawing the termination box is generally denoted with the reference numeral 10. The termination box 10 is mounted inside a wall structure of a building (not shown) to connect a conduit 25 to a tap assembly (not shown) and it comprises a body 11 inside of which a tap elbow 12 is mounted. The conduit 25 is connected to the tap elbow 12 with a fastening sleeve 16, and the tap assembly will be connected to the tap elbow through a bushing 22 or corresponding tunnel. The bushing 22 or tunnel may be integral with the body 11, or as shown in the drawing, it may be a separate component provided with threads 23, with which it can be mounted in place and taken away if needed. When the bushing 22 or tunnel is a separate component it is preferable to use a sealing 24 between the bushing 22 or tunnel and the body 11 of the termination box 10.

**[0015]** As mentioned above, the conduit 25 is a pipe-in-pipe structure comprising an inner pipe 26a which is the utility pipe for liquid and an outer pipe 26b which is the protective pipe. The protective pipe 26b is provided with circumferential grooves 26c. The inner utility pipe 26a is connected in a normal way to the pipe joint part on the tap elbow 12 and the outer protective pipe 26b is tightened in its place with the fastening sleeve 16. The fastening sleeve 16 is provided with a conduit locking mechanism 17 formed of protrusions extending towards the inside of the fastening sleeve 16 so that said protrusions grip to the grooves 26c of the protective pipe 26b. The protrusions are so flexible that they allow the conduit 25 to be pushed through the fastening sleeve 16 in one direction towards the tap elbow 12. On the other hand they are so stiff that when gripped to the grooves 26c they prevent the conduit 25 to be pulled out of the fastening sleeve 16 in the opposite direction. The fastening sleeve 16 is turned in its place by threads 16a arranged both on the body 11 and the fastening sleeve 16.

**[0016]** Inside the fastening sleeve 16 a flexible sealing part 18 is arranged, which sealing part 18 comprises a flexible conduit sealing 19 through which the protective pipe 26b is pushed. The conduit sealing 19 rests against the outer surface of the protective pipe 26b. The sealing part 18 further comprises a sealing section 20 for the body 11 of the termination box. When the fastening sleeve 16 is mounted in its place said sealing section 20 is squeezed against the body 11, whereby the fastening sleeve 16 also carries loads and the fastening sleeve 16 and the body 11 form a relatively rigid and integral piece. In order to make the conduit locking mechanism 17, i.e. the protrusions flexible enough for larger conduit dimensions, as seen in Fig. 2B, as well as stiff enough for smaller conduit dimensions, as seen in Fig. 2A, a spring element 21 is formed in the sealing part 18, which spring element 21 extends between the protrusions of the locking mechanism 17 and the inner side of the fastening sleeve 16. Said spring element 21 supports flexibly the locking mechanism 17. It is shown in the drawing that the locking mechanism 17 is an integral part of the fastening sleeve. However, as shown in Fig. 4, the locking mechanism 27 can be made as a separate piece mounted inside the fastening sleeve 16. In such case the sealing part 18 pushes the locking mechanism 27 in its place. An advantage of a separate locking mechanism is that it gives more flexibility to move the conduit 25 towards the body 11 of the termination box and away from it.

**[0017]** As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, in the invention the tap elbow 12 is locked in place in the

body 11 of the termination box 10 with a lid 13 provided with a bayonet connection arrangement. On the outer circumferential face of the lid 13 thread-like bayonet elements are arranged, each of which elements are provided with a notch 15. In the inner circumferential face of the opening in the body 11 of the termination box 10 counter elements (not shown) for the bayonet elements are arranged guiding the lid 13 in its place when the lid 13 is turned clockwise. Said counter elements may simply be round dowels. When the turning movement of the lid 13 reaches the end the counter elements in the body 11 fall in the notches 15 of the bayonet elements. Between the body 11 of the termination box 10 and the back side of the lid 13 a sealing element 14 made of compressible material, e.g. rubber or corresponding, is arranged. Said sealing element 14 creates a force pushing the lid 13 outwards and thereby keeping the counter elements of the body in the notches 15 of the bayonet elements. The installation of the lid 13 is simple and secured, and the lid 13 can also easily be reopened when needed.

**[0018]** The invention has been described above by way of examples and with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawing. The invention is not limited merely to the examples illustrated in the figures; instead, different embodiments of the invention may vary within the scope of the inventive idea defined in the accompanying claims.

## **REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

### **Patent documents cited in the description**

- EP0538197A1 [0003]

**PATENTKRAV**

1. Termineringsboks eller væg-vinkelbøjning (væg-albue) til forbindelse af en rørledning (25) med en haneanordning, hvilken termineringsboks (10) eller væg-albue omfatter et legeme (11), i hvis indre der kan monteres en rør-albue (12) eller en hanefitting, og en fikseringsmanchet (16), hvilken rørledning (25) omfatter et indre forsyningsrør (26a) og et ydre beskyttelsesrør (26b), hvilket beskyttelsesrør (26b) er udstyret med rundgående riller (26c) på sin periferiflade, hvorved rørledningen (25), når termineringsboksen eller væg-albuen er i anvendelse, er forbundet til rør-albuen (12) eller hanefittingen ved hjælp af fikseringsmanchetten (16), og haneanordningen, når termineringsboksen eller væg-albuen er i anvendelse, er forbundet til rør-albuen (12) eller hanefittingen via en bøsning (22) eller tilsvarende tunnel, hvorved fikseringsmanchetten (16) er udstyret med en rørlednings-låsemekanisme (17, 27), der er dannet af fremspring, som strækker sig henimod fikseringsmanchettens (16) inderside med henblik på at gribe fat i rillerne (26c) i det beskyttende rør (26b),
- kendetegnet ved, at** fikseringsmanchetten (16) omfatter en fleksibel tætningsdel (18), som er anbragt inden i fikseringsmanchetten (16), hvilken tætningsdel (18) omfatter en fleksibel rørledningstætning (19), som, når termineringsboksen eller en væg-albue er i anvendelse, hviler mod det beskyttende rørs (26b) ydre overflade med henblik på tætning af samme, og en tætnende sektion (20) til tætning af fikseringsmanchetten (16) mod termineringsboksens (10) eller væg-albuens legeme (11).
2. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge krav 1,
- kendetegnet ved, at** termineringsboksen eller væg-albuen omfatter et dæksel (13), hvorved, når termineringsboksen eller væg-albuen er i anvendelse, rør-albuen (12) eller hanefittingen er låst på plads ved hjælp af dækslet (13).
3. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge krav 1 eller 2,
- kendetegnet ved, at** låsemekanismens (17, 27) fremspring er fleksible i den radiale retning for fikseringsmanchetten (16) for at tillade rørledninger (25) af forskellig størrelse at blive modtaget i fikseringsmanchetten (16) og stift i fikseringsmanchettens (16) aksiale retning at hindre rørledningen (25) i at blive

trukket ud fra fikseringsmanchetten (16), når fremspringene gribes på det beskyttende rørs riller (26c).

4. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 3,  
5 **kendetegnet ved, at** den fleksible rørledningstætning (19) er indrettet til at modtage og tætte rørledninger (25) af forskellig størrelse.
  
5. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav,  
10 **kendetegnet ved, at** den fleksible tætningsdel (18) ydermere omfatter et fjeder-element (21), der strækker sig mellem låsemekanismens (17, 27) fremspring og fikseringsmanchettens (16) inderside med henblik på fleksibel understøtning af låsemekanismen (17, 27).
  
- 15 6. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav,  
**kendetegnet ved, at** låsemekanismen (17) er dannet som en integreret del af fikseringsmanchetten (16).
  
- 20 7. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav,  
**kendetegnet ved, at** låsemekanismen (27) er dannet som en separat del, der er monteret i fikseringsmanchetten (16).
  
- 25 8. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge krav 2 eller ifølge krav 2 og et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav 3 til 7, hvorved dækslet (13), som låser røralbuen (12) eller hanefittingen på plads i termineringsboksens (10) eller væg-albuens legeme (11), er udstyret med et bajonet-forbindelsesarrangement, der omfatter gevind-lignende bajonet-elementer, som er tilvejebragt på dækslets (13) ydre periferiflade, hvilke elementer hvert er udstyret med en rille (15), og  
30 der i en indre periferiflade for en åbning i termineringsboksens (10) eller væg-albuens legeme (11) er tilvejebragt kontraelementer for bajonet-elementerne med henblik på føring af dækslet (13) til dets plads, når dækslet (13) enten drejes i urets retning eller mod urets retning.

9. Termineringsboks eller væg-albue ifølge krav 8,

**kendetegnet ved, at** der mellem termineringsboksens (10) eller væg-albuens legeme (11) og dækslets (13) bagside er anbragt et tætningselement (14), som er fremstillet af komprimerbart materiale, med henblik på skabelsen af en kraft, der skubber dækslet (13) udad og fastholder legemets kontraelementer i bajonet-elementernes riller (15).

DRAWINGS

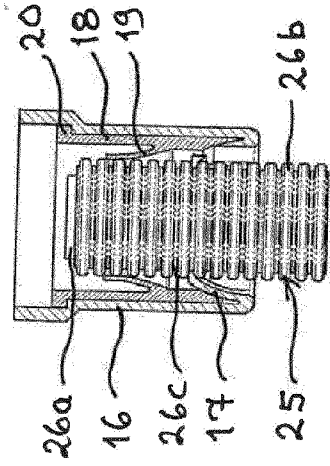


FIG. 2A

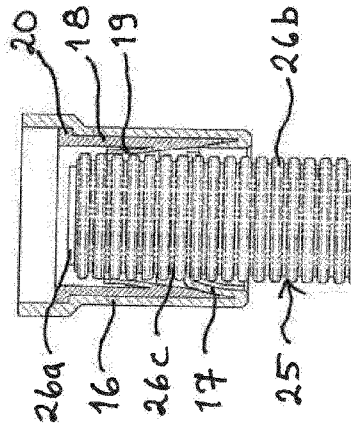


FIG. 2B

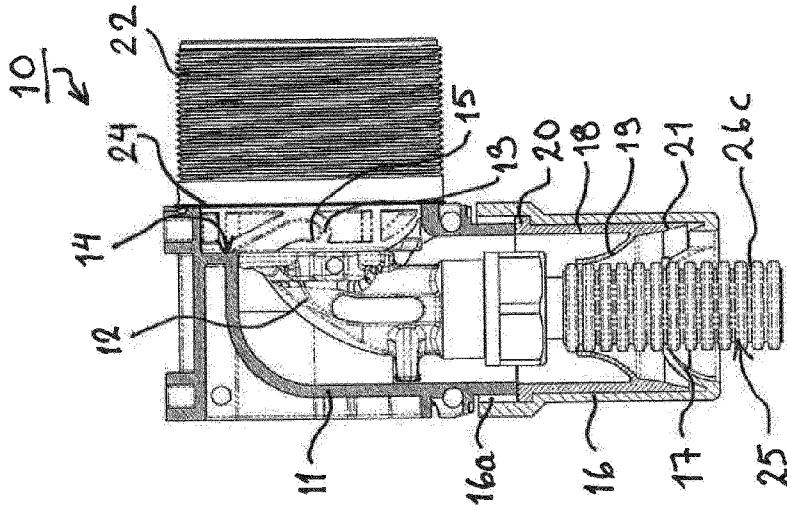


FIG. 1

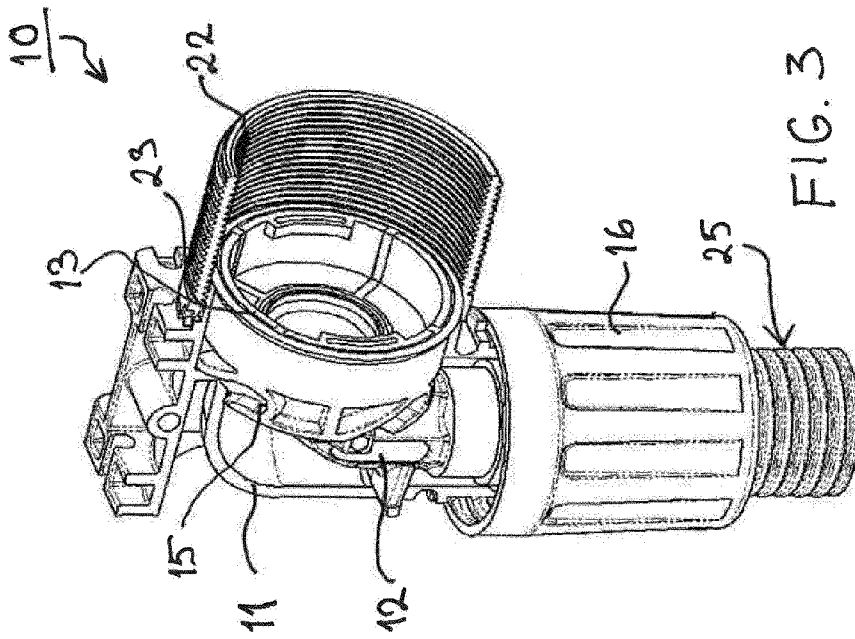


FIG. 3

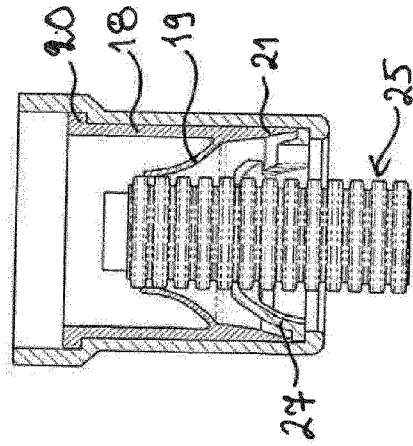


FIG. 4