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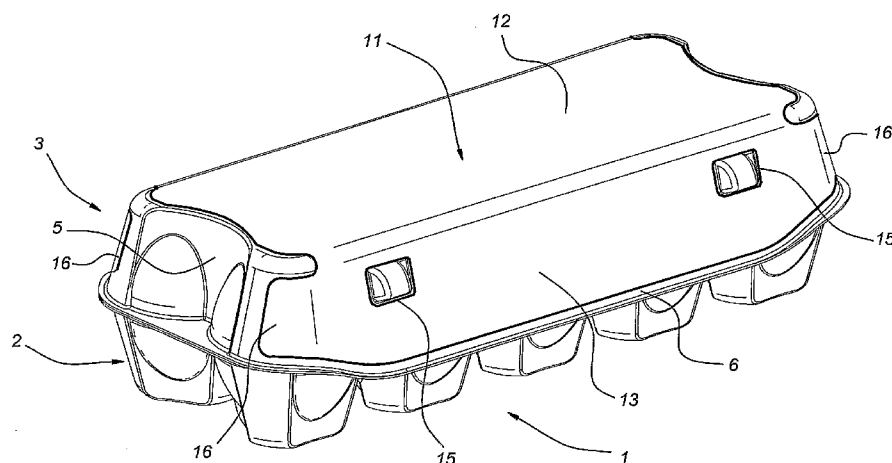
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(54) Title: CONTAINER FOR PACKAGING FOODS



(57) Abstract: Container (1), in particular egg packaging made of moulded fibre material, for packing foods, consisting of a bottom part (2) and a hinged lid part (3) joined thereto. The lid (3) part consists of a flat part (4) and side walls (5, 7) dropping down therefrom. There is always a transition part (20) between the side walls (5, 7). A label that covers as a large as possible proportion of the lid part (3) is applied to the lid part (3). For this purpose the label (11) essentially covers the top part (4), two side parts (6, 7) located opposite one another and the transition parts (20) adjacent to these. The label can be applied to the transition parts with a brushing technique.

WO 2006/001696 A1

CONTAINER FOR PACKAGING FOODS

The present invention relates to a container for packaging foods, comprising a bottom part and a hinged lid part joined thereto, said lid part comprising a top part and side parts extending therefrom towards the bottom part, which are delimited with respect to one another by transition parts, wherein a label has been applied to said top part by gluing, which label is provided with printing.

A container of this type is disclosed in US 4 617 748 A. In this publication a label to be applied to the top of an egg box is described which extends from said top to each of the side parts.

The present invention more particularly relates to an egg tray, but it must be understood that the invention can also be applied to other containers for packaging foods such as vegetables, fruit and the like. Such a container can be made of plastic material, paper or cardboard. In particular, the container according to the present invention is made of moulded fibre material, that is to say of a water-paper/wood fibre mixture from which a container is produced by forming and drying.

Such containers frequently have an irregular surface structure or for other reasons are not suitable for high quality printing. For instance, it is possible that the absorption capacity of the material of the container is so high that printing takes too much ink or, on the contrary, that the absorption capacity is so low that ink does not adhere sufficiently thereto.

Efforts are being made to provide an increasingly larger surface of the lid part with printing.

The aim of the present invention is to achieve this in such a way that the various aspects can easily be incorporated in existing production lines.

This aim is realised with the container described above in that said label is made in one piece to cover said top part, side part and a transition part, adjacent to said side part, to a further side part.

According to the present invention, apart from the top part, at least one side part and preferably two adjacent side parts are covered by the label. Furthermore, the transition part between one side part and in each case a further side part is also provided with the label. With this arrangement the label is preferably provided with freely protruding lips. That is to say such a lip is joined to the remainder of the label at one location and otherwise extends freely. As a result it is possible to cover the transition part between two side parts with the label, whilst, at the same time, the top part of the lid is covered. It is possible to cover each of the side parts with the label, that is to say both the short and the long side parts. According to a variant of the invention it is even possible to cover all side parts with a label.

According to a further advantageous embodiment the label is provided with openings. Such openings can, for example, be present to allow locking projections that are joined to the bottom part to be inserted through them.

Surprisingly it has been found that by using a simple flat sheet that can function as label it is possible to provide a larger surface of the egg tray with printing and thus to provide more (advertising) information on the lid part. The label can consist of simple paper material that is printed in the conventional manner. More particularly, this applies for the preferred embodiment with the protruding lip. Because this lip extends freely, it can be bent independently of the remainder of the label. This applies more particularly for bending along the transition part between two adjacent side parts.

The invention also relates to a method for the production of packaging comprising the provision of a container with lid and applying a label thereto by gluing, wherein the lid of said container has a top part and side parts adjoining the latter, wherein a transition part is always arranged between said side parts, wherein applying said label comprises positioning on the top part and pressing onto a side part, wherein this comprises pressing said label onto a transition part to a further side part.

The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to an illustrative embodiment shown in the drawing. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 shows, diagrammatically in perspective, an egg tray suitable for taking the label according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows a label according to the present invention for applying to an egg tray and

Fig. 3 shows a label applied to an egg tray.

In fig. 1 a container for items, such as an egg tray produced from moulded fibre material, is indicated by 1. This consists of a bottom part 2 in which cavities for accommodating eggs are shown diagrammatically. A hinged lid part 3 is joined thereto. The lid part 3 consists of a top part 4. Side walls drop down from the top part 4. These side walls are indicated by 5-7. 6 is the front wall, 7 the rear wall and 5 are the linking transverse walls. It can be seen from the drawing that the lid part is made essentially tray-shaped.

There are openings 8 in the front wall 6. Closing projections 9, which are joined to the bottom part, can protrude through these openings for locking. The lid part 3 can be unlocked from the bottom part 2 by depressing closing projections 9 and moving front wall 6 forwards. There is an indent 10 above the openings 8.

Transition parts 20 are arranged between each of the side walls. That is to say there is a transition part 20 between part 5 and part 6, between part 6 and the subsequent part 5, between part 5 and part 7 and between part 7 and part 5.

A flat sheet that has to be applied as label to the lid part 3 is shown in Fig. 2. This flat sheet is indicated in its entirety by 11 and comprises a central part 12, a front flap 13 and a rear flap 14. Openings 15 have been made in front flap 13. These openings 15 are precisely the same size as openings 8. Lips 16 extend on either side from the front flap 13 and from the rear flap 14.

Fig. 3 shows how this label 11 is applied to the lid part 3. With this arrangement the lips 16 extend onto the transition part 20. It is found to be possible to fix part 16 onto the transition part 20 without creases or other folds.

Fixing can, for example, be achieved by applying glue, spots of glue, strips of glue and the like to either the label 11 or the lid part. The flat sheet is then placed with the central part 12 thereof on the top part 4. With a brush or other pressure means, both the front flap 13 and the rear flap 14 are then positioned on the front wall 6 and the rear wall 7, respectively, followed by applying the lips to the relevant transition parts 20. With this procedure it is ensured that the openings 15 are accurately aligned with the openings 8. The various aspects are preferably such that the indent 10 is covered by the front flap 13. In this way the operation of the de-nesting facilities is not impeded.

It will be understood that the above is merely an illustrative embodiment. Numerous modifications are possible, which will be immediately apparent to those skilled in the art after reading the above descriptions and fall within the scope of the claims. For instance, it is possible to provide the flat sheet with further cut-outs. Likewise any possible printing can be applied thereto and the top part can have another shape.

Claims

1. Container (1) for packaging foods, comprising a bottom part (2) and a hinged lid part (3) joined thereto, said lid part comprising a top part (4) and side parts (5-7) extending therefrom towards the bottom part, which are delimited with respect to one another by transition parts (20), wherein a label (11) has been applied to said top part by gluing, which label is provided with printing, characterised in that said label (11) is made in one piece to cover said top part, side part and a transition part (20), adjacent to said side part, to a further side part (5-7).
2. Container according to Claim 1, wherein said label (11) for applying to said container comprises a flat blank provided with a protruding lip (16) which at least partially corresponds to said transition part.
3. Container according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said label is applied to both transition parts (20) adjoining a side part (6, 7).
4. Container according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said side part is the front and/or rear of said lid.
5. Container according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said label is provided with an opening (15).
6. Container according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said bottom part and/or top part comprises moulded fibre material.
7. Container according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said bottom part contains seats for said foods.
8. Container according to one of the preceding claims, comprising an egg tray, wherein the bottom part is provided with seats for eggs.
9. Method for the production of packaging comprising the provision of a container with

lid and applying a label thereto by gluing, wherein the lid of said container has a top part and side parts adjoining the latter, wherein a transition part is always arranged between said side parts, wherein applying said label comprises positioning on the top part and pressing onto a side part, wherein said pressing on comprises pressing said label onto a transition part to a further side part.

1/3

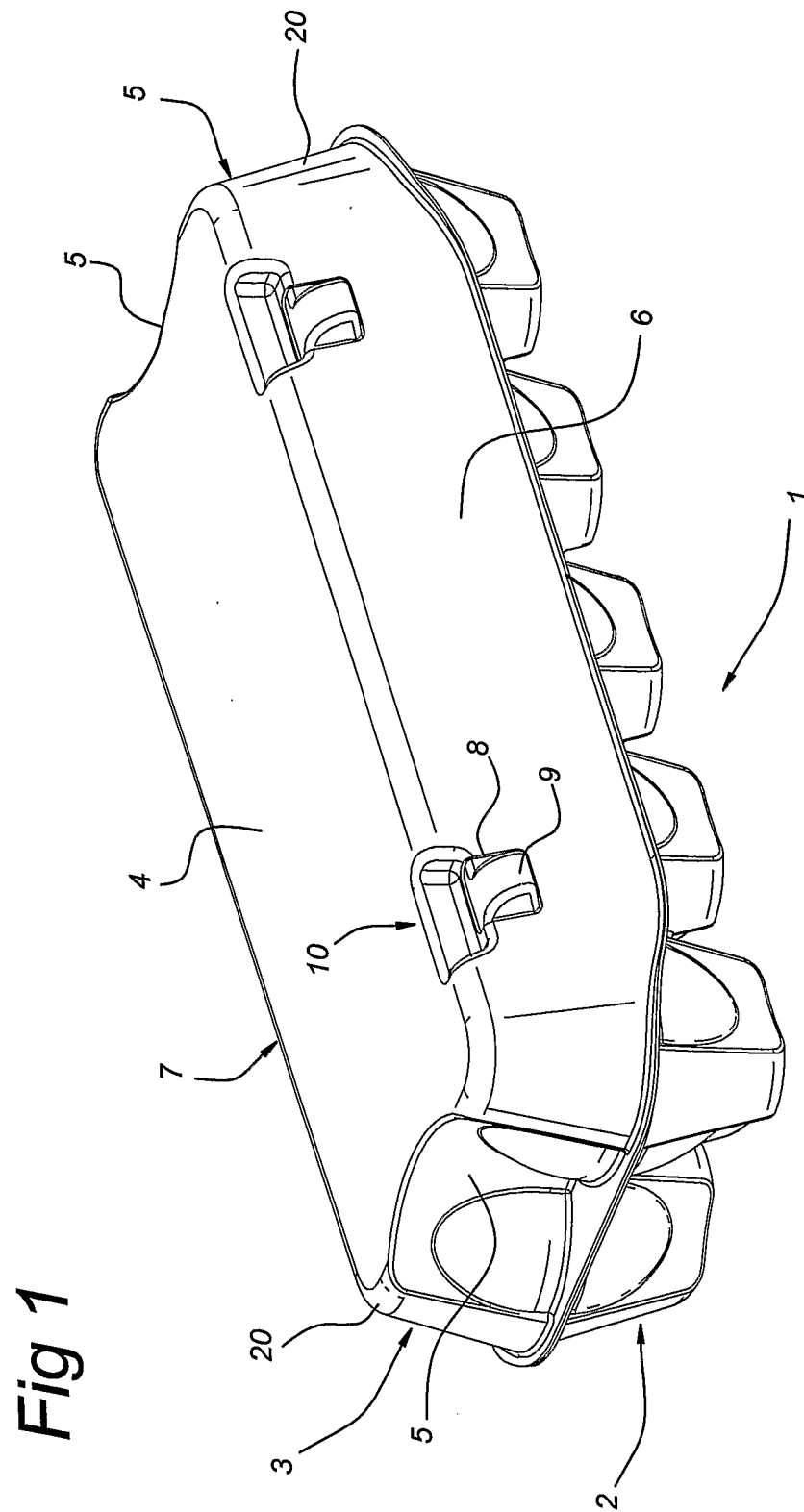


Fig 1

2/3

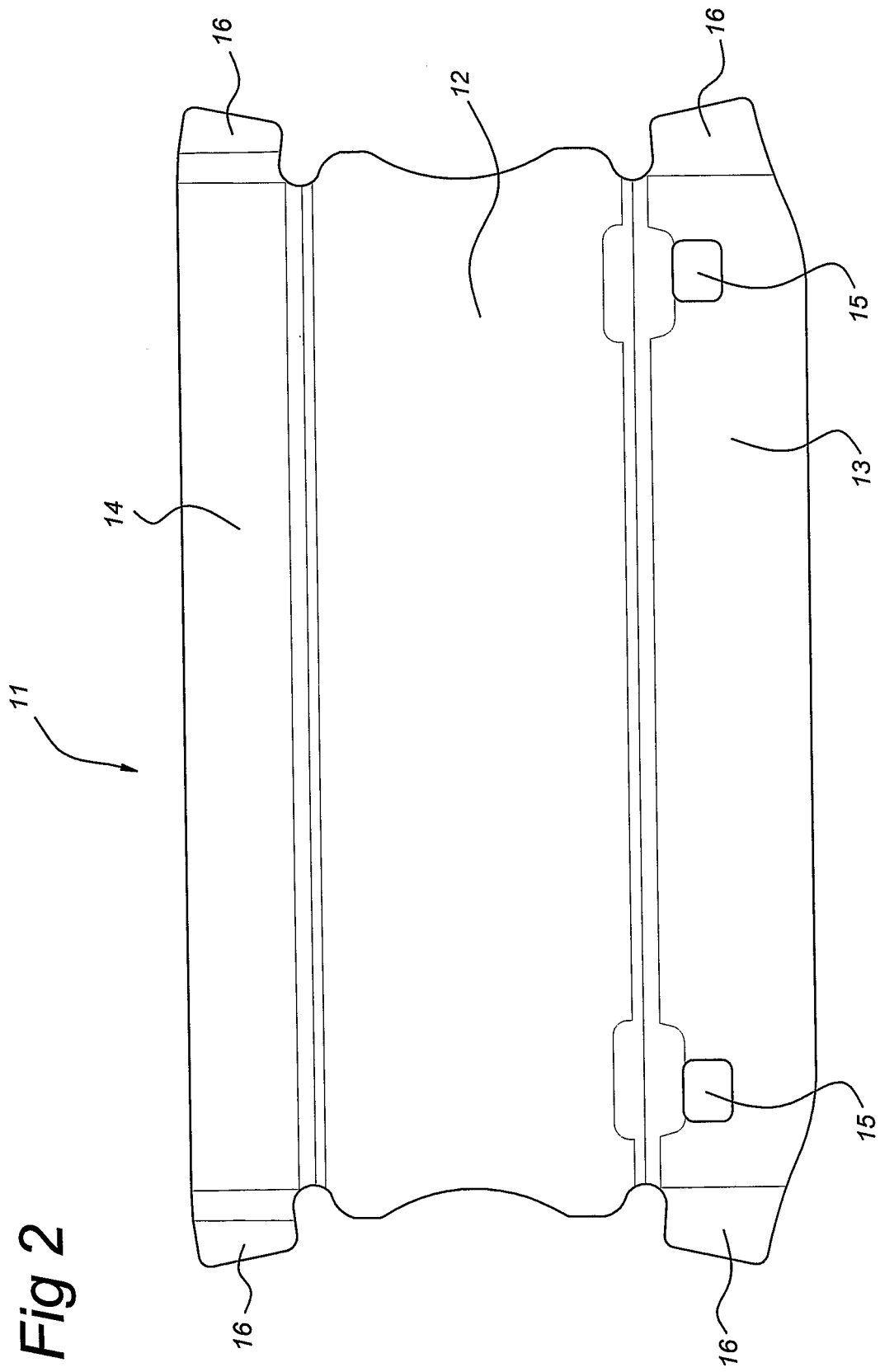


Fig 2

3/3

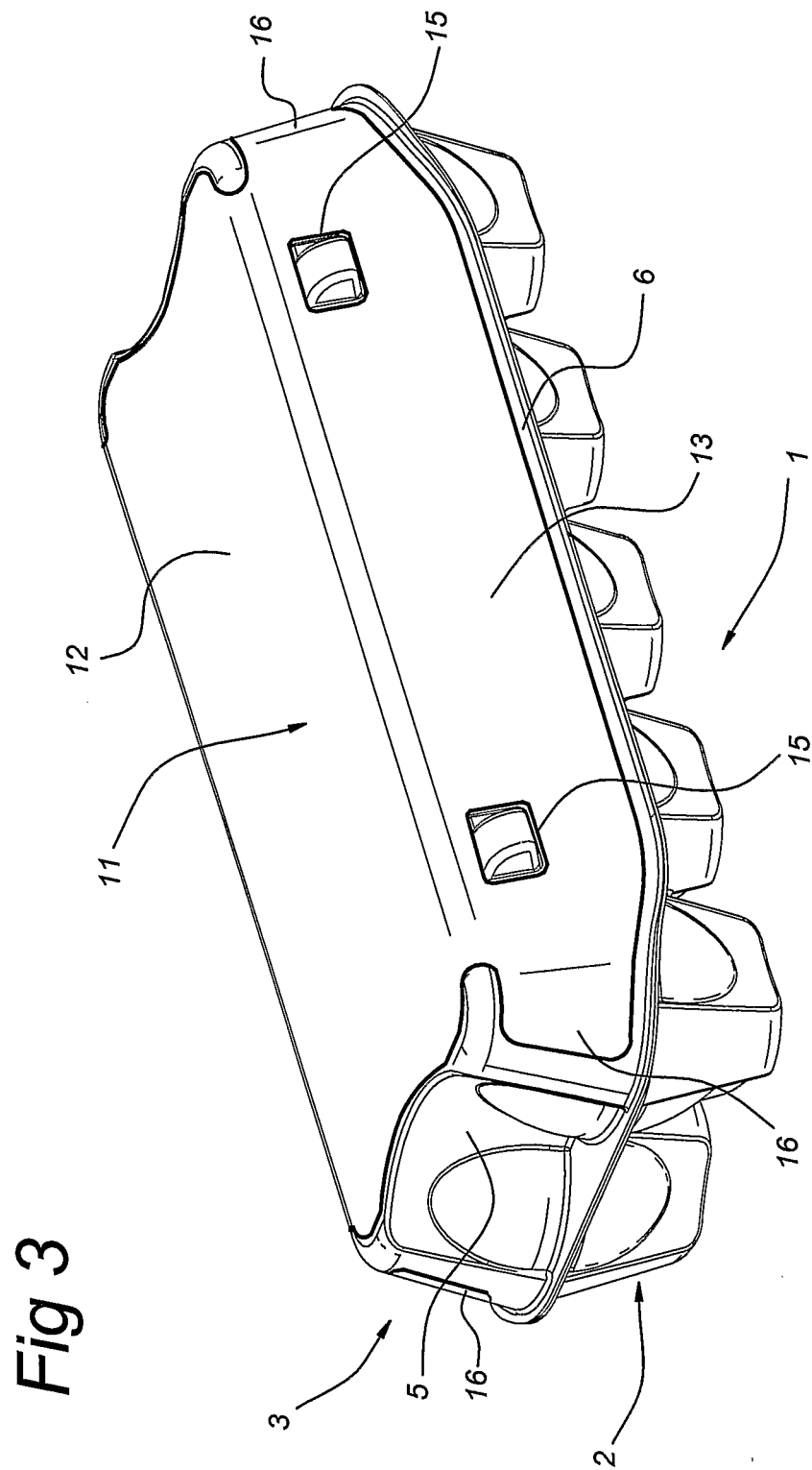


Fig 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B65D85/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65D G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

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Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 617 748 A (PADOVANI) 21 October 1986 (1986-10-21) cited in the application column 2, line 42 - line 63 figures 1,2,7-12	1-5,7-9
Y	FR 2 602 740 A (HELLION ETS) 19 February 1988 (1988-02-19) page 1, line 23 - line 25 page 2, line 9 - line 13 column 2, line 19 - line 25 column 2, line 27 - line 30; figures	1-9
Y	EP 0 380 321 A (DOLPHIN PACKAGING) 1 August 1990 (1990-08-01) column 2, line 4 - line 17; figures column 3, line 36 - line 52; figures 1,2 ----- -/--	6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Information on patent family members

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