

Title (en)

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POSITIONING AN ARTICLE HANDLING DEVICE

Title (de)

VERFAHREN UND VORRICHTUNG ZUR STEUERUNG EINES VERKAUFSAUTOMATS

Title (fr)

PROC D ET DISPOSITIF DE POSITIONNEMENT D'UN MANIPULATEUR D'ARTICLES

Publication

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Application

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Priority

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Abstract (en)

[origin: WO0191071A2] An article handling apparatus embodied, for example, as a vending machine, includes a controllably positioned hose dispenser for retrieving articles from an article storage area. A hose is continuous from a first end located within a hose storage area, where the hose receives article securing energy (e.g., suction), to a second end adapted to secure to and extract a selected article from the storage area. A hose positioning mechanism coupled to the hose controllably positions the second end of the hose so as to be aligned with a given article stored in the storage area, for controllably contacting and extracting the selected article from the storage area, and controllably positioning the second end of the hose so as to transport the article to a dispensing area. The hose positioning mechanism imparts both a storage requirement and a retraction requirement on the hose as a result of the controllably positioning. In accordance with the principles of the present invention a single hose storage area is provided in the vending machine for meeting all of the hose storage and retraction requirements.

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