



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
25.11.2009 Bulletin 2009/48

(51) Int Cl.:
B67D 1/14 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
12.08.2009 Bulletin 2009/33

(21) Application number: **09425034.7**

(22) Date of filing: **02.02.2009**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
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 SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA RS

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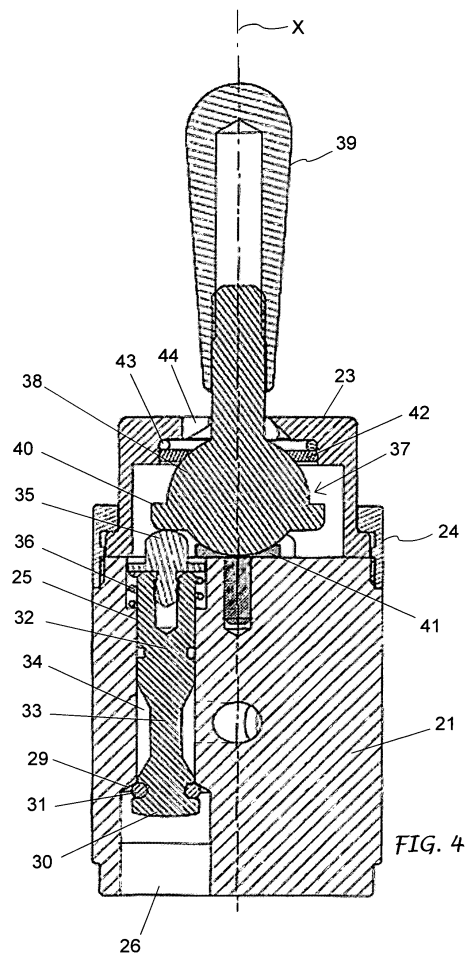
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(30) Priority: **05.02.2008 IT BS20080020**

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(54) **Multiway distributor-tapping device for fluids**

(57) This invention concerns a multi-way distributor-tapping device for fluids, in particular but not only for drinks. For each of its ducts an obturator (30) is provided which is movable axially between a closed and open position of a respective valve seat and having a thrust stem (32) provided with semi-spherical configured head (35) of the stem of said obturators (30) and subject to at least guided angular movements to individually control each obturator and the selective opening/closing of each valve seat depending on the fluid to be delivered from time to time.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 09 42 5034

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2 566 860 A (ARTHUR SEGAL) 4 September 1951 (1951-09-04)	1,4-8	INV. B67D1/14
Y	* the whole document *	2,3,9, 10,13-15	
X	----- US 2 619 387 A (CORNELIUS RICHARD T ET AL) 25 November 1952 (1952-11-25)	1	
Y	* the whole document *	2,3,10, 13,14	
Y	----- US 2 634 753 A (HORNER JACK E) 14 April 1953 (1953-04-14)	9	
Y	----- FR 1 329 258 A (CORNELIUS CO) 7 June 1963 (1963-06-07)	15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	----- US 2 921 605 A (BOOTH JACK J ET AL) 19 January 1960 (1960-01-19)	1	
A	----- EP 1 669 322 A (IMI CORNELIUS UK LTD [GB]) 14 June 2006 (2006-06-14)	1	
	* abstract; figures 1-5 *		B67D

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 July 2009	Examiner Ferrien, Yann
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

see additional sheet(s)

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 09 42 5034

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1,2-3

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the provision of a selection ring;

1.1. claims: 1,4-8

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the manoeuvre device is made up of a knob turning on an axis
coincident with the axis of the body;

1.2. claims: 1,9

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the manoeuvre device is made up of a knob turning around two
axis;

1.3. claims: 1,10

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the guide bush, the stem of the obturator and the spring
being extractable in block from the top;

1.4. claims: 1,12

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the semi-spherical head of each stem is fixed to said stem;

1.5. claims: 1,13-15

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature:
the output ducts of the fluid from the chambers are in
communication with a single or with a respective delivery
duct;

2. claims: 1,11

directed to a multi-way distributor-tapping device
characterized by the following special technical feature: an
flow regulator is provided in each chamber in line with a
relative obturator;

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 09 42 5034

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 09 42 5034

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
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22-07-2009

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2566860	A	04-09-1951	NONE	
US 2619387	A	25-11-1952	NONE	
US 2634753	A	14-04-1953	NONE	
FR 1329258	A	07-06-1963	NONE	
US 2921605	A	19-01-1960	NONE	
EP 1669322	A	14-06-2006	AT 415376 T	15-12-2008

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82