

12 **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

21 Application number: **83305918.1**

51 Int. Cl.⁴: **B 65 B 1/18**

22 Date of filing: **29.09.83**

30 Priority: **30.09.82 US 431220**

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43 Date of publication of application: **09.05.84**
Bulletin 84/19

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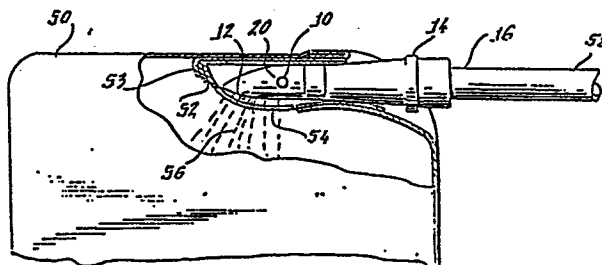
84 Designated Contracting States: **AT DE FR GB IT**

88 Date of deferred publication of search report: **26.06.85 Bulletin 85/26**

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54 **Apparatus and method for filling valve bag.**

57 An apparatus and method for use in filling a valve bag (50) eliminates sifting of product during the filling process. A filling nozzle (10) is inserted into the valve of a bag (50) to be filled. A flow of particulate material is provided through the filling nozzle (10) and into the bag. When the bag is full, the flow of particulate material is terminated. A blast of high pressure air is then introduced into the nozzle (10) in order to clear the nozzle of any residual particulate material therein. A low pressure blast of air is introduced between the nozzle and the filling valve to suspend any particles present in the filling valve after the nozzle has been cleared by the high pressure blast. A vacuum is introduced into the nozzle to suck any suspended particles out of the filling valve after the low pressure blast has been introduced. A boot (14) can be inflated around the nozzle (10) to seal the nozzle (10) within the bag valve before filling the bag (50).





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
A	US-A-2 936 994 (LAU E.M.) * Column 7, line 34 - column 8, line 13; column 6, lines 11-13; figures 6,14,15 *	1,2,11	B 65 B 1/18
A	EP-A-0 007 692 (CARTER INDUSTRIES) * Page 10, lines 10-22; page 11, lines 8-25; figures 1-3 *	1,11,12	
A	US-A-3 192 967 (WHITE,Jr. H.V. et al.) * Column 3, lines 29-41; figure 1 *	1,11,12	
A	US-A-3 072 208 (TITCHENAL O.R. et al.) * Column 5, lines 23-55; column 10, lines 60-72; figures 1,2,9 *	1,4,11,13	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
A	US-A-3 137 328 (SWENSON A.R.A. et al.) * Column 5, lines 43-45; column 6, lines 12-19; figure 1 *	1,11	B 65 B
A	GB-A- 416 215 (LAFARGE ALUMINOUS CEMENT COMP.) * Page 4, lines 1-14; figure 2 *	2	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18-03-1985	Examiner GRENTZIUS W.
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	