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54 Thin walled containers.

57 A thin walled plastic container (10) having an opening (14) therein includes a device (18) for increasing the rigidity of the container, the device comprising an expandable body (24) having an opening (28) therein, the body (24) being located in the container (10) with the opening (28) in the body in register with the opening (14) in the container so that the interior of the body is in communication with the outside of the container and not in communication with the interior of the container. The body (24) is adapted to be expanded, e.g. by means of a gas, to increase the pressure in the ullage space (34) of the container to increase the rigidity of the container (10) when the opening (28) in the body and the opening (14) in the container are closed by closure means (32) and (20). The increased rigidity of the container allows it to be transported and stored more easily.

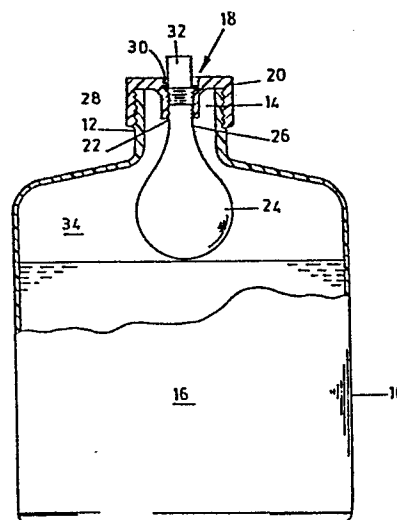


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 83 30 6448

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)
X	FR-A-1 304 698 (PRONAL) * Page 1, left-hand column, paragraph 1; page 1, right-hand column, lines 3-7, 13-16; page 1, right-hand column, line 28 - page 2, left-hand column, line 16; figures 1,2 *	1,2,5, 14,15	B 65 D 25/02
Y		3,4,8, 13	
Y	FR-A-1 314 002 (BOUET) * Page 2, right-hand column, lines 18-27; figure 2 *	3,4,8; 13	
A	FR-A-2 331 485 (JOHNSON) * Page 11, lines 6-28; page 14, line 35 - page 15, line 20; figures 5,12,13 *	6,7	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3) B 65 D
A	CH-A- 385 720 (LEFLAIVE)		
A	FR-A-1 405 013 (SHELL)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19-03-1985	Examiner VANTOMME M.A.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			