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54 **Thermo-activating breaker.**

57 A normally-closed bimetal switch 1 comprises a pair of electrical switch contacts (6,8), a bimetallic strip (7), which carries one of the contacts (6), and a transparent glass envelope (2), within which the contacts (6,8) and the bimetallic strip (7) are hermetically sealed. The envelope (2) contains a gas, such as a neon, at low pressure. The composition and pressure of the gas are so chosen that on opening of the contacts (6,8) a gas discharge is set up which is visible through the envelope (2), and thus acts as an alarm, and which produces sufficient heat to prevent or substantially delay the re-closing of the contacts (6,8).

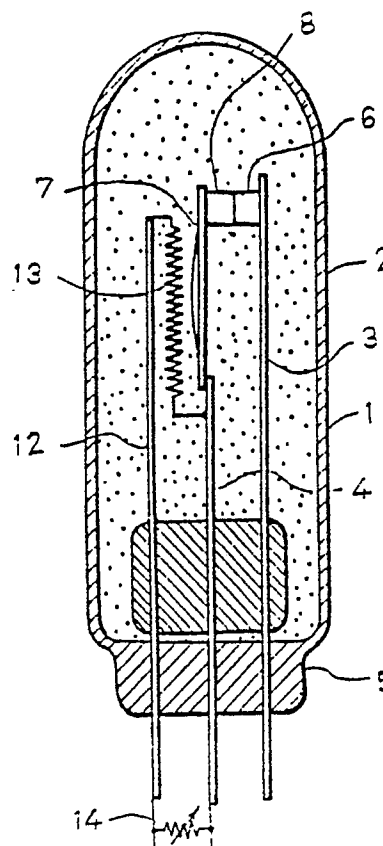


FIG. 3

EP 0 283 138 A3



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.4)
X	FR-A-1 495 779 (DANFOSS A/S) * the whole document *	1,3,8-10	H 01 H 61/017
Y	---	2	
Y	FR-A-2 000 361 (LICENTIA PATENT VERWALTUNGS GMBH) * page 1, lines 14-17 *	2	
A	---	7	
A	US-A-3 833 873 (W. H. MOKSU) * column 7, lines 44-56; figure 6 *	1,3,8-10	
A	GB-A-2 025 141 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD.) * page 1, lines 83-90; abstract; figure 1,2 *	1,4,8-10	
A	FR-A-1 307 359 (B. MONFRAY) * page 3, left column, last paragraph; figure 3 *	4-7	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			H 01 H 61/00 H 01 H 1/00 H 05 B 41/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 15-11-1989	Examiner DIOU J.M.
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	