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54 **Security extension procedure for remote setting meter.**

57 A technique for securely clearing the meter after it has been disabled by a security detection scheme without returning the meter to the factory. During this technique, the meter generates a security lock code which is transmitted to a data center computer. The data center computer compares the security lock code with an internally generated security lock code. If the codes agree, the data center computer then generates a security clear code which is transmitted to the meter. The meter then compares this code with an internally generated security clear code. If these codes agree, then the meter clears the security lock flag thereby enabling the meter. As a result, the customer can subsequently remotely set the meter.

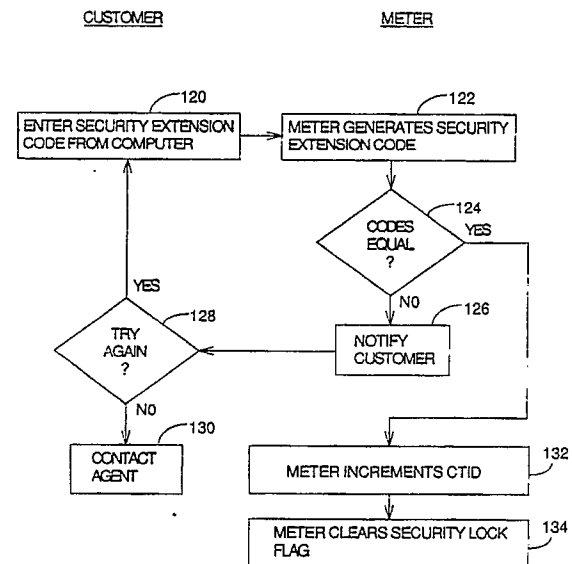


FIG. 6

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

EP 90 10 5118

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.5)
Y,A	GB-A-2 080 202 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 2, line 70 - page 4, line 29; figures * - - - -	1,3,5,6,2, 4,7,8	G 07 B 17/04
Y,A	EP-A-0 096 386 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 4, line 33 - page 7, line 14 ** page 8, line 20 - page 9, line 10; figures * - - - -	1,3,5,6,8	
A	US-A-4 097 923 (ECKERT, JR. ET AL.) * column 21, line 20 - column 25, line 34; figures * - - - -	1-3,5-8	
A	GB-A-2 178 696 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 1, line 58 - page 2, line 5; figures * - - - -	1,3,5-8	
A	GB-A-2 188 874 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 1, line 63 - page 2, line 55; figures * - - - -	1,3,5-8	
A	US-A-3 792 446 (MC FIGGINS ET AL.) - - - -		
A	GB-A-2 188 878 (PITNEY BOWES) - - - - - - - -		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G 07 B G 07 F G 07 C G 06 F
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		28 May 91	RAKOTONDRAJAONA C.N.
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			