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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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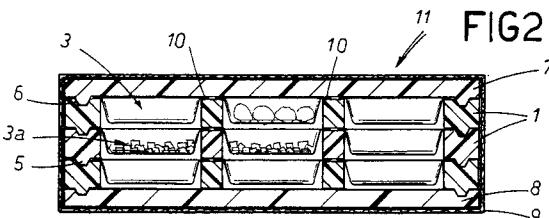
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㉕ Modular packing for food products.

㉖ The packing (11) comprises a multiplicity of rigid layers (1) stably but movably stacked one above the other, each of which layers (1) has at least one through-hole (2), destined to support peripherically by geometrical interference, at least one corresponding tray (3), the through-hole (2) being of a depth at least equal to the smallest height of the trays (3) to be used, so that one or more through-holes (2), vertically aligned, are able to contain trays (3) of arbitrary height.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 83 0222

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US-A-4 529 088 (P. QUONG) * column 3, line 21 - column 4, line 46 *	1-3,6,7	B65D21/02
Y	* figures 1-3 * ---	4,5,8, 10-14	B65D81/38 B65D85/34
Y	FR-A-2 332 197 (B. PAMPAGNIN) * page 3, line 19 - line 29 *	4,10	
Y	* figures 3,4 * ---		
Y	US-A-3 448 914 (W. SCHOLZ) * column 3, line 22 - line 60 *	5	
Y	* figures 1,7 * ---		
Y	GB-A-1 146 029 (GRÜNZWEIG & HARTMANN AG) * page 2, line 59 - line 68 *	11	
Y	* figure 2 * ---		
Y	US-A-4 862 674 (L. LEJONDAHL ET AL.) * column 3, line 42 - column 4, line 32 *	8,12-14	
Y	* figure 1 * ---		
X	GB-A-1 079 953 (Y. TRICAULT) * page 1, line 59 - page 2, line 75 * * figures 1-4 *	1,2,4-8, 10,13	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-4 618 069 (P. QUONG) * column 3, line 62 - column 5, line 40 *	1-3,6,7	B65D
X	* figures 1-4 * -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	29 MARCH 1993	SMOLDERS R.C.H.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement 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.



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 has 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:



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

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

- 1) claims 2-7,9-11: modular packing for food produce comprising a multiplicity of rigid layers whereby each layer is decomposable, has profiles and counterprofiles and tray supporting means.
- 2) claims 8,12-14: modular packing for food produce comprising a multiplicity of rigid layers whereby at least one layer exhibits an internal cavity for refrigerating or insulation purposes.

This present search report shows that a modular packing for food comprising a multiplicity of rigid layers as claimed in claim 1 belongs to the state of the art (lack of novelty) The claims which are dependant from claim 1 have only known aspects in common.

The conclusion is therefore that 2 different, thus independant, problems have to be solved, each of which is described in one of the corresponding groups of claims indicated above. These groups of claims lack a common inventive concept (lack of unity of invention a posteriori).

Besides claim 1 the invention/subject first mentioned in the claims (i.e. subject 1) has been searched.