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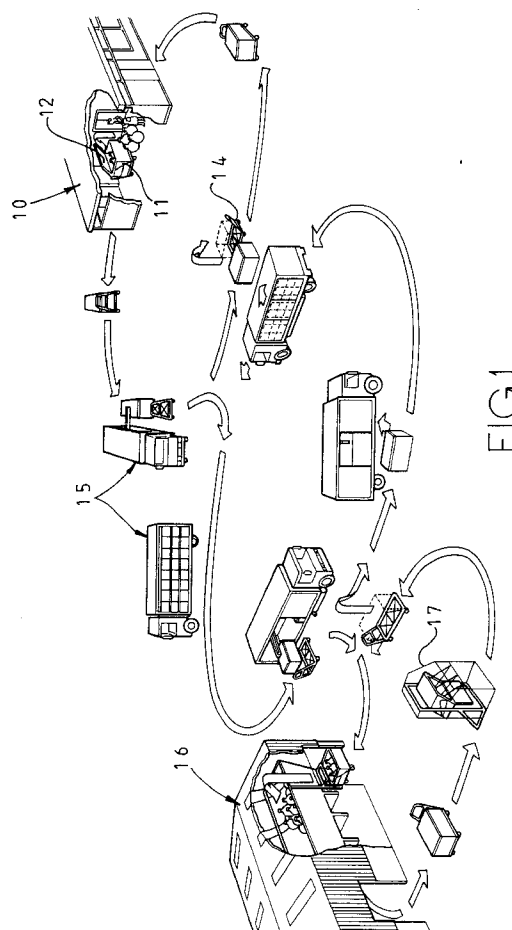
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(54) **Waste disposal system.**

(57) As shown in Figure 1, the invention provides a cost-effective system for the transport and disposal of potentially hazardous waste. Waste is loaded into tough, durable re-usable containers (11) at a waste production site such as a hospital ward (10). These are transported locally on wheeled trolleys (14) to a pick-up site where they are loaded on to special purpose vehicles (15) fitted with special purpose hoist devices. The vehicles (15) transport the containers to a waste disposal site where the containers are emptied into an incinerator feed hopper. The containers are then cleaned and sanitized before being returned on the vehicles to the waste production sites for re-use.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 6514

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.6)
X	DE-U-89 09 979 (TRAPAC B.V.) * claim 1; figures *	1-6	B65F3/00 B65F1/16 B65F9/00 B65F3/08 B60P1/54 B66C17/00
Y	---	7,8,10, 11	
X	US-A-5 062 760 (SAMANIEGO) * the whole document *	12-15	
Y	---	7,8,10, 11,16	
Y	FR-A-979 053 (ULVSUNDA SAGVERKS AB) résumé * figure 1 *	8,11,16	
Y	US-A-3 860 280 (KARLSSON) * column 3, paragraph 2 *	11	
X	GB-A-2 252 316 (FERGUSON) * claims 1,7; figures *	1,2,4,6	
X	WO-A-92 06906 (NIJENHUIS) * page 4, line 22 - page 5, line 25; figures *	1,4-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B65F B60P B66C
A	WO-A-92 06901 (SOPRANO ET AL.)		
A	DE-C-39 17 307 (SCHÄFER)		
A	NL-C-74 479 (GEESINK NV)		
A	GB-A-347 379 (TAMINI)		
A	DE-A-38 28 845 (SCHÄFER)		
A	US-A-3 572 513 (TANTLINGER ET AL)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 March 1995	Examiner J.-P. Deutsch
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			

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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:



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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 1-11: A system for the transport
and disposal of waste by means of
re-usable containers

2. Claims 12-17: A hoist for use in a vehicle

Unity of invention is given if several inventions are defined by same or corresponding special technical features which lead to a technical relationship between the inventions. In the present case, however, no such relationship can be found.

Furthermore, since the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty in the light of documents WO-A- 92/06901, DE-U 89 09 979 or GB-A- 2 252 316 there cannot exist a common, inventive concept between the inventions.

The application therefore lacks unity of invention.

The partial search has been performed for the first invention, i.e. claims 1-11.