



Publication number : **0 652 162 A3**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number : **94308003.6**

(51) Int. Cl.⁶ : **B65D 51/18, B65D 55/08**

(22) Date of filing : **31.10.94**

(30) Priority : **06.11.93 GB 9322908**
02.02.94 GB 9402004

(43) Date of publication of application :
10.05.95 Bulletin 95/19

(84) Designated Contracting States :
AT BE DE ES FR GB IE IT NL

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report :
23.08.95 Bulletin 95/34

(71) Applicant : **Lawson Mardon Sutton Ltd.**
Forest Works,
Coxmoor Road
Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17
5LH (GB)

(72) Inventor : **Dudzik, Henryk**
4 Small Holdings,
Old Mill Lane
Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottingham (GB)

(74) Representative : **MacGregor, Gordon et al**
ERIC POTTER CLARKSON
St. Mary's Court
St. Mary's Gate
Nottingham, NG1 1LE (GB)

(54) **Tamper-evident cap for a keg spear.**

(57) A cap for a keg spear has internal teeth (13), which snap-engage over an annular projection on the spear. A tamper-evident ring (40) is provided on the cap skirt (12) and connected to the skirt by radial tags (41) having point attachment to the skirt. The ring obstructs access to the skirt for levering off the cap, so that any such attempt loosens the ring by breaking the tags to provide tamper evidence. The ring (40) is securely fixed to a tab (30,31) defined by a pair of lines of weakness extending axially in the skirt (12) and radially across the top (11) of the cap. The ring can be used as a handle to split the cap for removal in one piece.

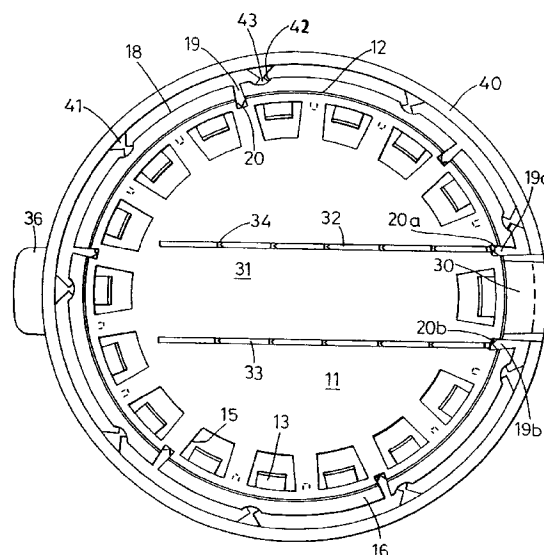


Fig. 3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 8003

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)
D,A	US-A-4 712 705 (FUEHRER) * the whole document * ---	1,3-9	B65D51/18 B65D55/08
A	EP-A-0 189 346 (ASTRAPLASTIQUE) ---		
A	EP-A-0 161 565 (BOETZKES) ---		
A	US-A-4 779 750 (ARMSTRONG) * abstract; figures * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0 324 573 (DANSK BAKELIT INDUSTRI A/S) * abstract; figures * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0 358 583 (MANUFACTURE LYONNAISE DE BOUCHAGE) * the whole document * ---	2	
A	GB-A-2 076 379 (RIEKE CORPORATION) * abstract; figures * ---	2	
A	GB-A-2 170 788 (KEGMASTER REDDITCH LTD) * abstract; figures * -----	2	<div>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</div> <div>B65D</div>
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 June 1995	Examiner Smith, C
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> 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 </div> <div> 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 </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 01.92 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

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:



European Patent
Office

EP 94 30 8003 -B-

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:

The only common features between claims 1 and 2 are those features present in the preamble to both claims.

These features are known from US-A- 4 712 705.

The characterising features of claims 1 and 2 describe different solutions to different problems.

The features of the characterising portions of these two claims therefore cannot be considered as common special technical features.

The different inventions are:

1. Claims 1,3,4 and 5-9 inasfar as they depend on claim 1 refer to the specific structure of the frangible tags situated between the cap and the ring of the tamper evident keg spear cap, in order to prevent the ring from being wedged back to conceal tampering
2. Claims 2 and 5-9 when dependent on claim 2 refer to constructional details of the means for detaching the ring from the skirt of a tamper evident keg spear cap, in order to be used as a handle for splitting the skirt.

The partial search report has been drawn up for the first named invention.