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(71) Applicant: **DE' LONGHI S.p.A.**
31100 Treviso (IT)

(72) Inventor: **De' Longhi, Giuseppe**
I-31100 Treviso (IT)

(74) Representative:
Rapisardi, Mariacristina
Ufficio Brevetti Rapisardi S.r.l.,
Largo V Alpini, 15
20145 Milano (IT)

(54) **Air conditioning apparatus and method having a refrigerating fluid which is not harmful to at least the ozone layer**

(57) The air conditioning apparatus, with a refrigerating fluid which is not harmful to at least the ozone layer, includes at least a first safety zone (5) wherein at least part of said electrical and/or electronic members of the apparatus are arranged; the safety zone has selected dimensions for preventing the formation of either minimum or maximum concentration of said coolant within said flammable limits; and at least a first chamber (6) comprising said electrical and/or electronic members adapted to operate the apparatus; the chamber is crossed by an air flow initially produced by the ventilator (4) for removing any minimum or maximum concentration of the coolant falling within said flammable limits, from the chamber.

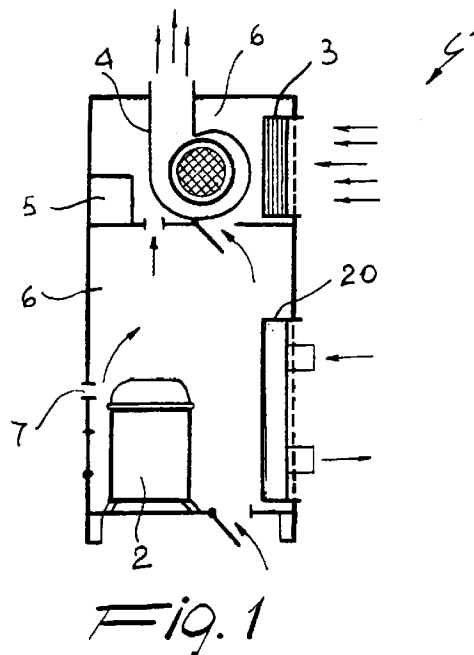


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 10 1582

| 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) |
| A | WO 94 05956 A (LINDGREN GARY) * abstract; figure 1 * --- | 1,2,9 | F24F11/02 F25B49/00 |
| A | DE 43 18 271 A (MIELE & CIE) * column 1, line 40 - column 62; figure * ----- | 1,2,9 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| | | | F24F F25B |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 29 September 1997 | Examiner Peschel, G |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> | | | |

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