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(54) **A composite double-layer packaging material, particularly for food products**

(57) A composite double-layer packaging material, particularly for food products, comprising a first support layer (10), upon which a second layer (11) is adhered, consisting of a thin film of a material hygienically acceptable for contact with food products so as to form a dou-

ble-layer sheet, characterized in that said thin film of hygienically acceptable material (11) has sizes larger than the sizes of said first support layer, so that it forms at least a foldable flap (12,13,14) to cover a food product laid upon said double-layer sheet.

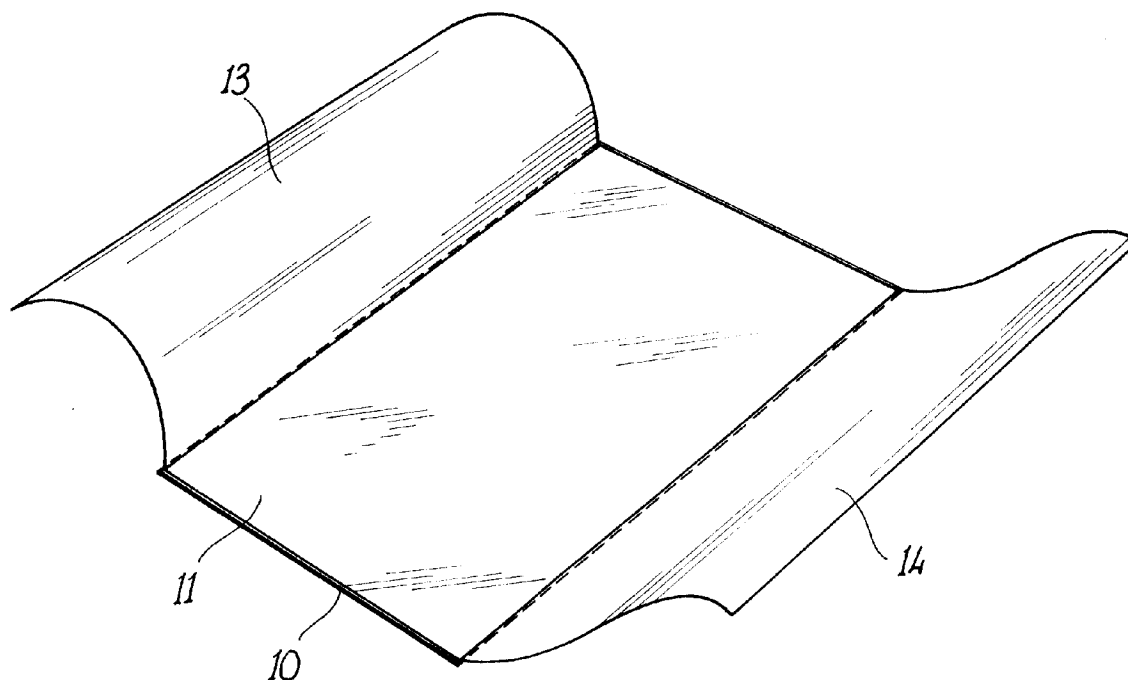


FIG. 2

Description

This invention broadly relates to packaging materials and more particularly concerns a composite, double-layer, paper based packaging material, specifically useful for packaging food products.

Even if it should be understood that no restrictive use limitation is to be derived from the following specification, the specific field of use of the packaging material according to this invention is the field of the retail sale of food products, such as bacon, fromages, meats, dairy products and like.

As it is well known, as a consequence of an already established general practice and in compliance with always more and more restrictive and binding hygienical regulations, food products offered for retail sale to public are packaged in wrappings consisting of sheets of paper based material which are wrapped around the product.

The packagings of paper based material should fulfil well established hygiene and safety requirements, so that it has been for a certain time and presently it is still general practice to use composite wrappings comprising a paper based sheet, intended not to contact the food product, together with a thin film of a plastics material complying with the legal hygiene and use safety regulations and requirements.

Such wrappings, however, have at least a deficiency. In fact, aiming at preventing, during the warping operation, which very often entails a real rolling of the paper based material together with the food product contained therein, the concerned food product from contacting the external paper based material, it is usual practice to use a second sheet of plastics material to directly cover the concerned food product, so that, even if said packaging material is to be very tightly wrapped, the concerned food product is always insulated and separated from the external paper based layer.

Even if it is certainly efficient, this approach always entails use of two materials of different kinds, with consequent problems for storage, inventory, housing compartments and like.

It is an object of this invention to improve such kind of packaging materials and to realize a composite double-layer packaging material which can be easy to manufacture, as well as easy to be stored and applied, while providing at once better performances than those offered by conventional packagings, also the most recently developed ones.

It is specific subject-matter of this invention, therefore, a composite double-layer packaging material, particularly for food products, comprising a first support layer, upon which a second layer is adhered, consisting of a thin film of a material hygienically acceptable for contact with food products, so as to form a double-layer sheet, wherein said thin film of hygienically acceptable material has sizes larger than the sizes of said first support layer, so that it forms a foldable flap designed to cover the food product laid upon said double-layer

sheet.

Further details and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following description with reference to the annexed drawings in which the preferred embodiments are shown by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a composite double-layer packaging sheet material, having a foldable overlayable flap,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a composite double-layer packaging sheet material having two foldable overlapping flaps.

By referring now to Figure 1, a first embodiment of this invention comprises a base sheet 10 of paper material, upon which a thin film 11 of plastics material is applied, of a kind approved for use with food products. Said film 11 is adhered to the paper base sheet 10 by means of traditional methods and equipment.

The characterizing feature of said thin film 11, however, is that it has much larger sizes than the base sheet 10 and particularly it forms a free flap 12.

After the food product has been laid upon the double-layer portion of the packaging sheet, the so former free flap 12 is folded and laid upon the food product, in order to perform the same function as performed by a second separate sheet of plastics material according to the state of the art.

By referring to Figure 2 of the drawings, a second embodiment of this invention comprises a base sheet 10, also made of a paper material or substantially paper material, upon which a thin film 11 of plastics material is applied, of a kind approved for use with food products. Said film 11 is adhered to the paper base sheet 10, by means of traditional methods and equipment.

The characterizing feature of said thin film 11, however, is that it has much larger than the base sheet 10 and particularly it forms two free and opposed flaps 13 and 14. After the food product has been laid upon the double-layer portion of the packaging sheet, the so formed opposed flaps 13 and 14 are folded and laid upon the food product, in order to perform the same function as performed by a second separate sheet of plastics material according to the state of the art. Upon folding, said flaps 13 and 14 can only be intermediately juxtaposed, but they can also slightly overlap to one another in intermediate area, so as to increase the coverage effect upon the food product.

In a further not shown embodiment, that can be easily apparent to those skilled in the art from the above description, said thin film 11 can also form one or more additional flaps orthogonal to flaps 13 and 14, in order to wrap the food product not only at two lateral sides, but also at the other two remaining opposite sides.

As above mentioned, the adhesion between the base sheet and the thin plastics material film overposed

thereupon can be effected by means of any desired method and equipment, but anyway it is suggested that the adhesion be not extended to the whole contact surface, so as to leave a not adherent peripheral edge designed to aid folding of the upper flap or flaps.

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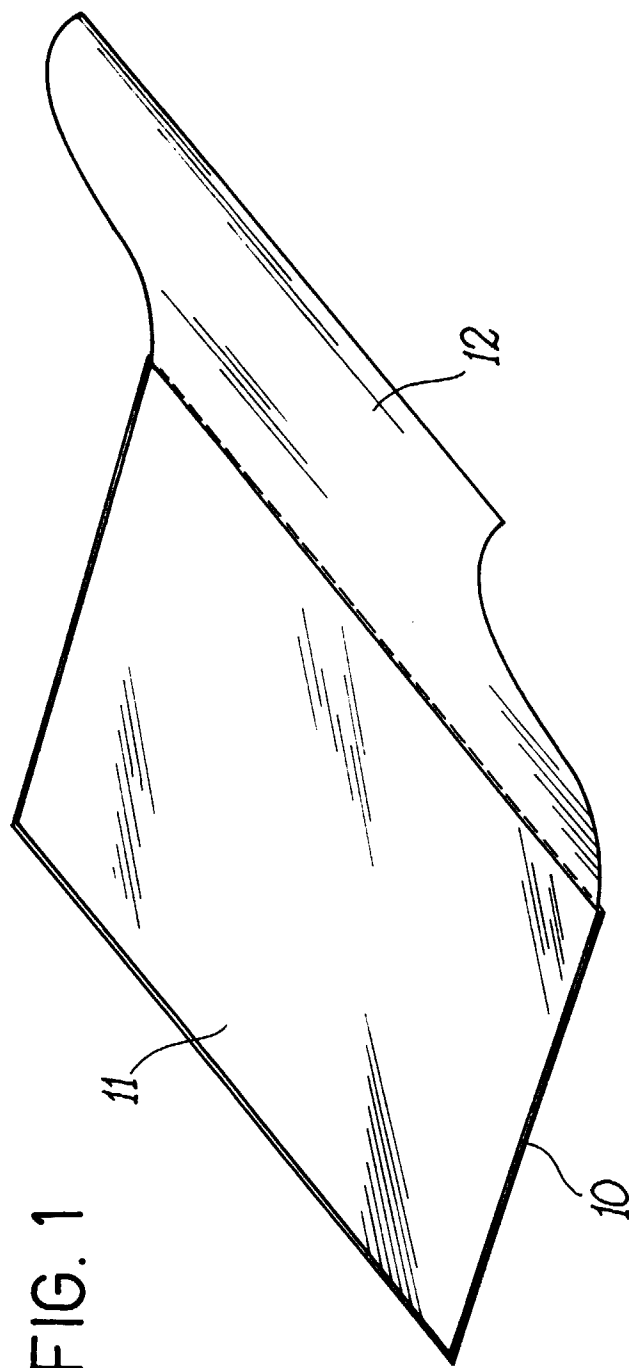
The preferred embodiments have been heretofore described, it should be expressly understood that those skilled in the art can make further changes and modifications to the details and to the material compositions, as well as to the thicknesses and the shapes, without departing from the scope of this invention as defined in the annexed claims.

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Claims

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1. A composite double-layer packaging material, particularly for food products, comprising a first support layer (10), upon which a second layer (11) is adhered, consisting of a thin film of a material hygienically acceptable for contact with food products so as to form a double-layer sheet, characterized in that said thin film of hygienically acceptable material (11) has sizes larger than the sizes of said first support layer, so that it forms at least a foldable flap (12,13,14) to cover a food product laid upon said double-layer sheet.
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2. A composite packaging material according to claim 1, characterized in that the film of hygienically acceptable material (11) forms two opposed side flaps (13,14).
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3. A composite packaging material according to claim 2, characterized in that said two opposed flaps (13,14), after having been folded upon said food product, are intermediately juxtaposed.
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4. A composite packaging material according to claim 2, characterized in that said two opposed flaps (13,14), after having been folded upon said food product, slightly overlap to one another in the intermediate area.
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5. A composite packaging material according to claim 1, characterized in that said film of hygienically acceptable material forms four orthogonal opposed flaps, cross foldable upon said food product, with or without mutual overlap.
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6. A composite packaging material according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesion between the base support layer (10) and the overlaid film (11) is extended to less than their whole contact surface, in order to leave a not adherent peripheral edge to aid folding the upper flap(s).
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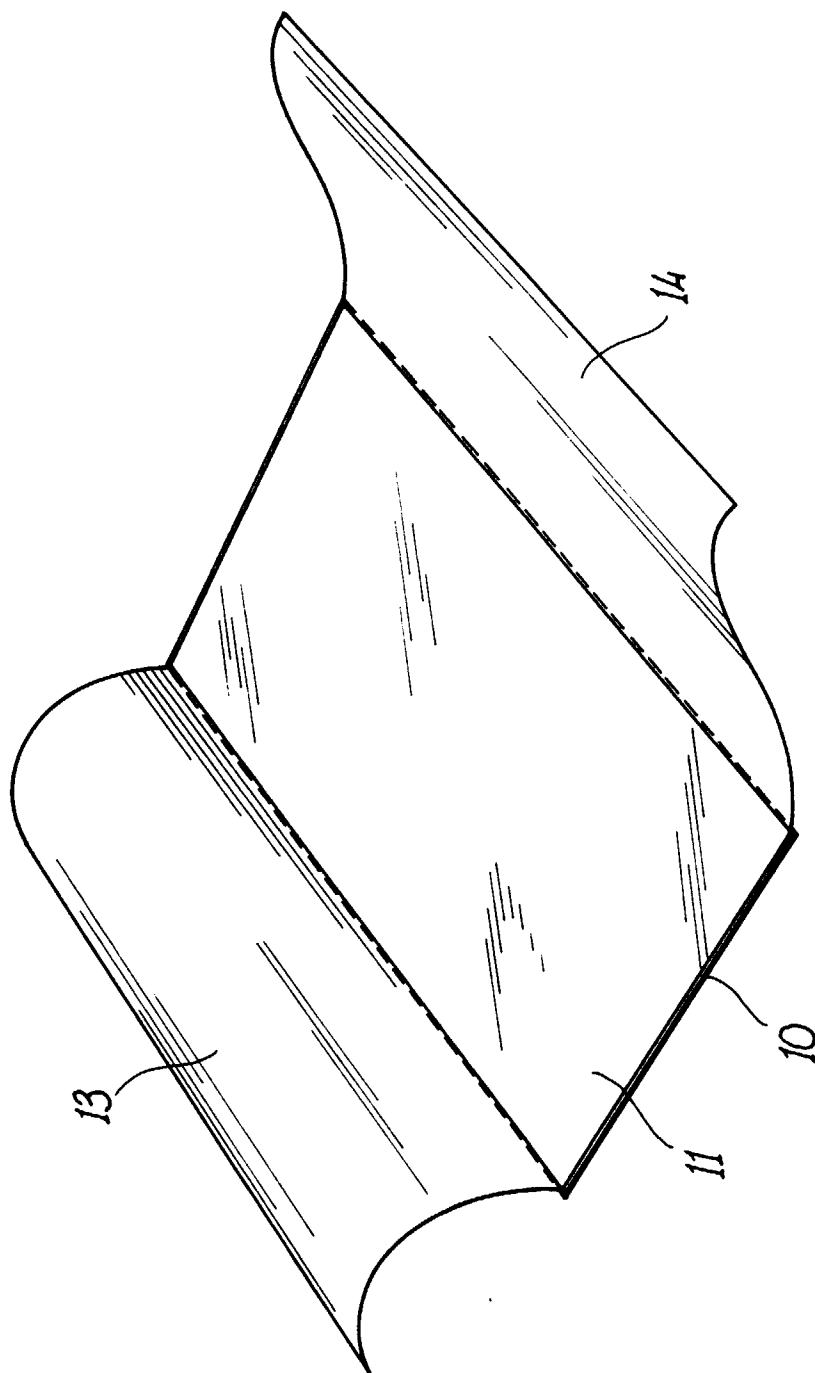


FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 83 0300

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	US 1 421 027 A (R.S. REYNOLDS) * page 1, left-hand column, line 12 - page 1, left-hand column, line 15 * * page 1, left-hand column, line 40 - page 1, left-hand column, line 47 * * page 1, right-hand column, line 76 - page 2, left-hand column, line 42 * * figures 1,2 *	1-5	B65D65/22 B65D75/28
A	---	6	
X	EP 0 621 205 A (GRACE W R & CO) * page 3, column 3, line 28 - page 3, column 3, line 49 * * page 3, column 4, line 28 - page 3, column 4, line 52 * * figures 1,2,5 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 February 1998	Examiner Farizon, P
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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