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**The designation of the inventor has not yet been
filed**

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(54) **Process for treating formed metal surfaces**

(57) A process for treating an aluminium can, comprising the steps of cleaning with an aqueous acidic or alkaline solution, drying and subsequently conveying the cleaned and dried can via automatic conveying equipment to a location where it is lacquered or decorated by printing or both. At least one exterior surface of the can, prior to the last drying of the surface before automatic conveying, is contacted with a lubricant and surface conditioner forming composition comprising ethoxylated, hydrogenated castor oil triglycerides, and the can is then dried without subsequent rinsing, thereby forming a film on the can to provide the surface of the can after drying with a reduced coefficient of static friction compared to an otherwise identical sequence of treatments where the lubricant and surface conditioner forming composition is substituted with water.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 December 1999	Examiner Hilgenga, K
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