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(54) **Key-controlled electromechanical safety switch with electromagnetic controlled blocking device**

(57) A key-controlled electromechanical safety switch, in particular for machines or plants, which comprises a case (2) containing pairs of electric contacts (3,3'; 4,4') operatively coupled to a shank (10) slidable along a longitudinal axis (A), cam actuation means (6) located in an end portion or head (2'') of the case (2), interacting with the shank (10), at least one slot (8,8') on the head (2'') of said case (2) for insertion of a control key (7) adapted to interact with the actuation means (6) to control opening and closing of the contacts (3,3'; 4,4'), at least one blocking electromagnet (11) acting on the shank (5) to allow safe operation of the machine or installation. The electromagnet (11) comprises a core or full armature (13), distinct and separate from the shank (10), and the cam actuation means (6) include a cam (9) with at least one seat (23) adapted to interact with the key (7) to prevent its extraction when the electromagnet (11) is not excited.

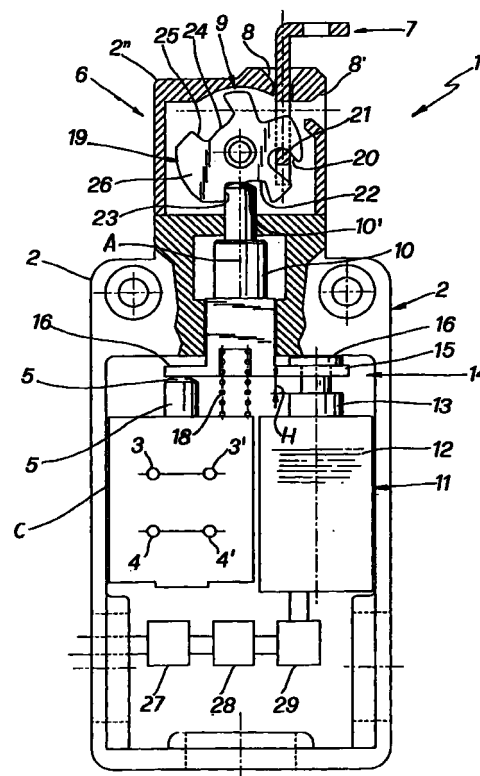


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 20 2446

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D,X	WO 95 18457 A (EJA ENG PLC ;MOHTASHAM MEDI (GB)) 6 July 1995 (1995-07-06) * page 5, paragraph 3 * -----	1	H01H27/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	3 August 2000	LIBBERECHT, L	
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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