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(11)

**EP 1 134 040 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**16.07.2003 Bulletin 2003/29**

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65B 57/16**, B07C 5/38,  
B07C 5/34

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**19.09.2001 Bulletin 2001/38**

(21) Application number: **01201016.1**

(22) Date of filing: **16.03.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

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(30) Priority: **16.03.2000 EP 00200932**

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(54) **Sorting and packaging products**

(57) The invention relates to a method for packaging products, such as vegetables and fruits, utilizing a sorting machine, comprising the steps of determining per product the characteristics of the respective products, such as, for instance, determining their weight and/or their shape; comparing the characteristics with predetermined packaging requirements; on the basis of this comparison, selecting products that do not need to be

packaged; supplying the other, non-selected products to a packaging unit, which packaging unit is energized only when there is a substantially uninterrupted in-feed of the products into the packaging unit.

The invention also relates to an apparatus for carrying out the method.

**EP 1 134 040 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 01 20 1016

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 26 May 2003	Examiner Wich, R
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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26-05-2003

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