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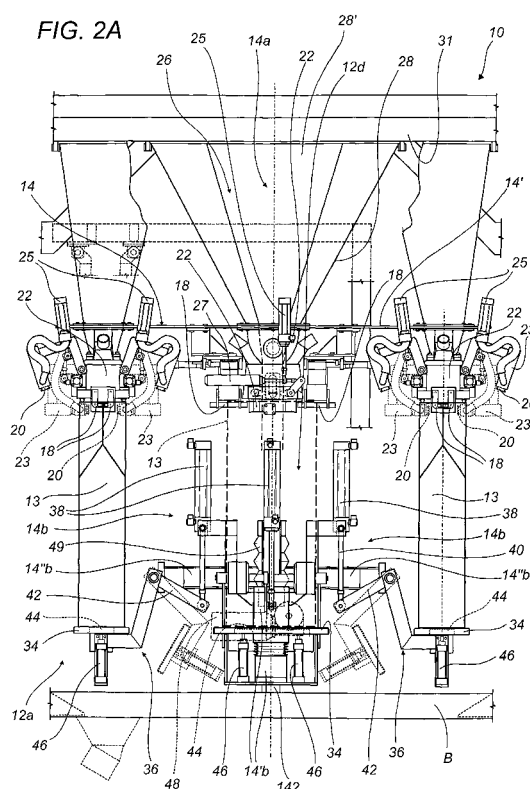
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(54) **A sack filling method and apparatus.**

(57) A method and apparatus for filling sacks (13) with a predetermined quantity of product. The apparatus comprises at least one mobile sack feed and filling unit which carries each sack (13) along the process line and

at the same time fills the product into it. In the method according to the invention, the empty sacks (13) are fed at the same speed as the mobile filling unit before they are transferred to the mobile filling unit itself.

FIG. 2A





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 42 5480

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.7)
X	US 3 323 280 A (RAUSCH CLARENCE W) 6 June 1967 (1967-06-06) * column 7, line 58 - column 10, line 7; figures 1-39 * * column 15, line 46 - line 62 * * column 17, line 15 - column 31, line 4 * * column 34, line 50 - column 36, line 21 *	1-4,6-9, 11-14, 16,17, 21-33	B65B39/14 B65B43/50 B65B43/60
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X	EP 0 576 058 A (RONCHI MARIO OFF MEC) 29 December 1993 (1993-12-29) * column 4, line 41 - column 5, line 36; figures 1-6 * * column 6, line 18 - line 26 *	1-4,6, 10-13, 16-19, 23,27-32	
Y	---	5,15	
X	EP 0 673 835 A (RONCHI MARIO OFF MEC) 27 September 1995 (1995-09-27) * column 2, line 36 - column 5, line 27; figures 1-4 *	1-3,5-7, 10-20, 23,27,29	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B65B
A	EP 0 844 180 A (MOLINS PLC ;KRAFT FOODS INC (US)) 27 May 1998 (1998-05-27) * column 10, line 33 - line 57; figures 1,8-11 *	3,14	
A	GB 333 528 A (BROOKE BOND INDIA LTD;CLEMENT WOOD) 13 August 1930 (1930-08-13) * page 1, line 12 - page 4, line 40; figures 1-6 * * page 3, line 93 - line 100 *	10, 18-20,28	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 23 January 2003	Examiner Johne, 0
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)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 02 42 5480

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-9,11-17,21-33

same speed for the feed means and the sacks to be
transferred to the feed means

2. Claims: 10,18-20

support of sacks having adjustable height

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 42 5480

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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23-01-2003

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