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(54) **Process and apparatus for reordering expanded tobacco**

(57) A process reorders tobacco that has been expanded by impregnating the tobacco under pressure with liquid carbon dioxide, forming a solid mass of the tobacco and solid carbon dioxide, and heating the solid mass in an expansion zone to sublime the carbon dioxide and thereby expand the tobacco. The expanded tobacco is

discharged from the expansion zone and before the temperature of the expanded tobacco is below about 27°C, the tobacco is contacted with humidifying air having a temperature of about 27°C to about 33°C and a relative humidity of about 58% to about 88%.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 25 3275

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Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 2 February 2007	Examiner Pille, Stefaan
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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