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(72) Inventor: **Skerra, Helmut**
Varroville NSW 2566 (AT)

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(74) Representative: **Croston, David et al**
Withers & Rogers,
Goldings House,
2 Hays Lane
London SE1 2HW (GB)

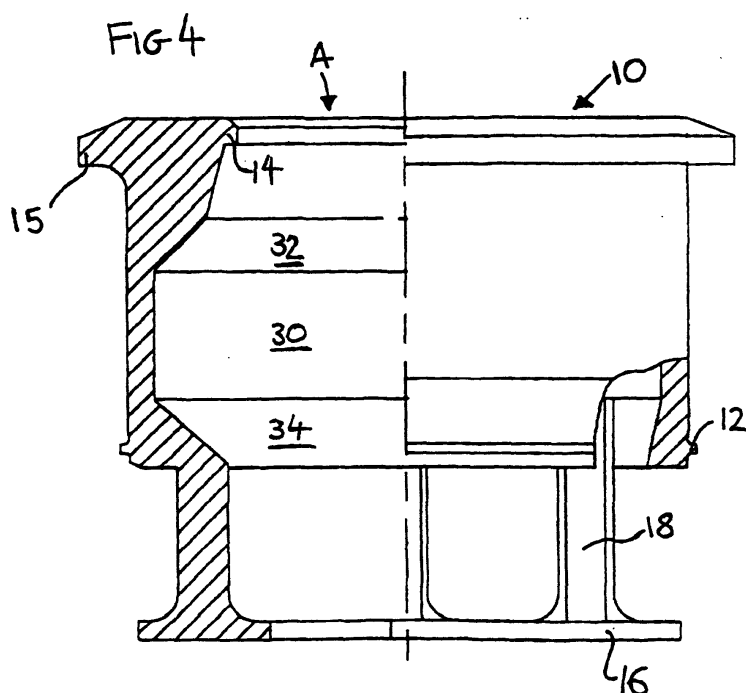
(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
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(71) Applicant: **Skerra Pty Limited**
Varroville, NSW 2566 (AU)

(54) **Beer keg and valve fitting**

(57) A fitting (F) for a fluid storage barrel (B) comprises an integral housing (10) including a valve having a seal (24) and spring (20) for biasing the seal (24) against the valve seat (14) to close the aperture (A). The fitting (F) is located within the opening (O) of the barrel (B) directly, for example by welding. The fitting includes

an annular cavity substantially larger than aperture (A) for larger flow volume past opened seal (24) and relatively large apertures between legs (18) enhance flow and a bottom plate (16) that diverts incoming fluid laterally to the barrel sides. The spring (20) and seal plate (22) each includes means to avoid accidental removal from the fitting.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 01 9246

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)
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A	* page 15, line 8 - line 16; figures 7,8 *	12,17	B67D1/08
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A	* column 8, line 49 - line 55; figures 3-6 *	12,17	
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	* column 3, line 15 - line 26; figure 1 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		7 January 2005	Wartenhorst, F
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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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 7 January 2005	Examiner Wartenhorst, F
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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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
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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: 1-11

A valve fitting for a barrel comprising an integral housing,
a valve, a fluid diversion plate and a centre piece.

2. claims: 12-16,20

A spring for co-operating with a valve fitting on a barrel
comprising means for preventing accidental removal thereof.

3. claims: 17-19

A spring and plate for use in a valve fitting comprising
means for preventing accidental removal of the plate from
the spring.

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

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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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07-01-2005

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82