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(71) Applicant: **De Greef's Wagen-, Carrosserie- en Machinebouw B.V.**  
**4196 JB Tricht (NL)**

(72) Inventor: **De Greef, Jacob Hendrik**  
**4181 BM Waardenburg (NL)**

(74) Representative: **Land, Addick Adrianus Gosling et al**  
**Arnold & Siedsma**  
**Sweelinckplein 1**  
**2517 GK Den Haag (NL)**

(54) **Method and apparatus for packaging of aubergines and other vulnerable vegetables and/or fruits**

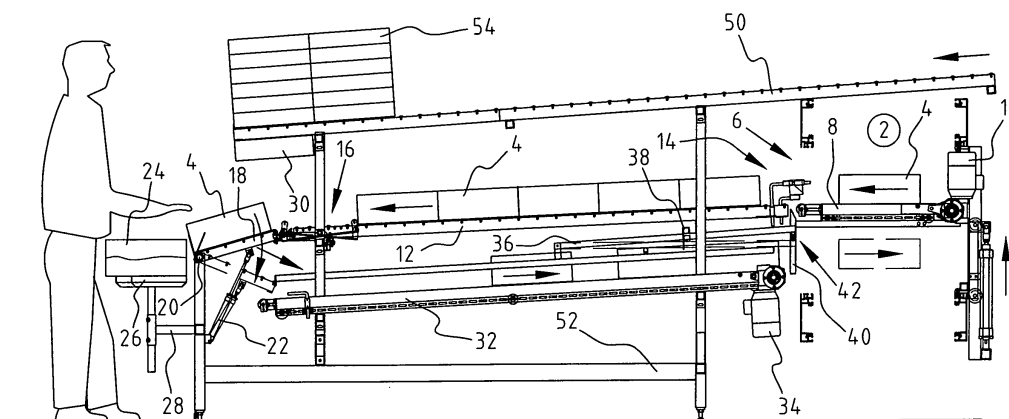
(57) The present invention provides a method for packaging aubergines and other vulnerable vegetables and/or fruit, comprising the following steps of:

- placing the aubergines in transport means;
- measuring the weight and/or visual characteristics of each aubergine in the transport means;
- allocating the products to a number of offloading stations and sorting the aubergines into a predetermined number of classes;

-offloading the aubergines from the transport means at the relevant offloading station onto a packaging unit positioned at the offloading station;

-filling the packaging unit up to a predetermined total weight; and

-re-packing the aubergines from the packaging unit to the final package at a removal location coupled to the offloading station.



**FIG. 1**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 07 5724

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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A	NL 8 900 004 A (GREEFS WAGEN CARROSSERIE) 1 August 1990 (1990-08-01) * abstract * * figures 1-3 *	1-16	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65B B07C
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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 20 May 2014	Examiner Damiani, Alberto
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			

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