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(54) **Percolation of hygroscopic bulk material**

(57) The phenomenon of caking of hygroscopic particulates is analyzed. Mechanical reconditioning of agglomerated material does not prevent the problem of caking to reoccur, either in bags or other storage areas. Percolation of dry air in the bulk hall utilizes the prolonged residence time in the bulk hall to improve the handling quality of the product once and for all. A simple grid arrangement (3) at the bottom of particulates piles (4) distributes dry air over a certain period, significantly improving the quality of the product.

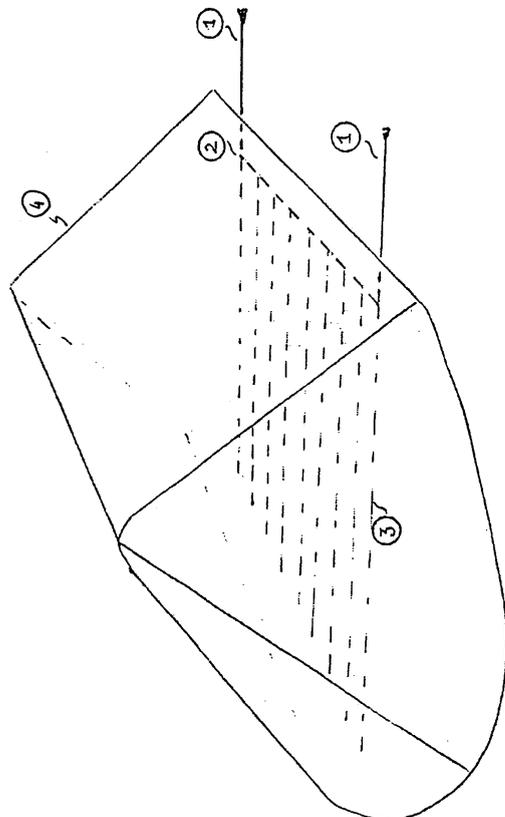


FIG. 1



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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		5 October 2007	Silvis, Henk
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 5 October 2007	Examiner Silvis, Henk
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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