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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 25 2526

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 1 306 486 A (GUMMIWERK KRAIBURG ELASTIK GMBH) 2 May 2003 (2003-05-02) * paragraph [0077] - paragraph [0091] * * figures 11-19 *	1,4-12, 14,16	INV. E01C9/04
Y	US 5 201 467 A (KENNEL ET AL) 13 April 1993 (1993-04-13) * the whole document *	1-4	
Y	EP 1 225 279 A2 (INTERVIA GMBH & CO KG [DE]) 24 July 2002 (2002-07-24) * paragraphs [0001], [0002] * * paragraph [0006] * * paragraph [0031] * * figure 1 *	1-4	
A	US 4 880 158 A (COOK ET AL) 14 November 1989 (1989-11-14) * the whole document *	1	
A	US 3 612 394 A (WILFRID GAGNON) 12 October 1971 (1971-10-12) * the whole document *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	CA 2 364 923 A1 (CORLAC INDUSTRIES LTD) 13 June 2003 (2003-06-13) * the whole document *	1	E01C F16B
P,A	WO 2005/098139 A (ELIZABETH WONG YEE TRUSTEE OF [US]; YEE ALFRED A [US]) 20 October 2005 (2005-10-20) * page 1, lines 11-22 * * page 31, line 8 - page 38, line 8 * * figures 18-27 *	2-9	
A	FR 619 709 A (HENRY ARTHUR LEAVER) 7 April 1927 (1927-04-07) * the whole document *	5-9	
9 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 14 November 2006	Examiner Kerouach, May
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:
1-14, 16
- ☐ 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:



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: 1-4,10-14,16

A vehicle supporting surface including first and second panels of compressible material with respective interengageable formations at their abutting surfaces, the interengageable formations being configured to, when engaged, counteract forces resulting from the compression of the panels. One of the formations includes a generally upwardly projecting portion and the other formation a generally downwardly projecting portion.

2. claims: 1,5-9,14,16

A vehicle supporting surface including first and second panels of compressible material with respective interengageable formations at their abutting surfaces, the interengageable formations being configured to, when engaged, counteract forces resulting from the compression of the panels. One of the formations includes a member having a slot, channel or groove and the other formation includes a portion that engages the slot, channel or groove.

3. claims: 1,15,16

A vehicle supporting surface including first and second panels of compressible material with respective interengageable formations at their abutting surfaces, the interengageable formations being configured to, when engaged, counteract forces resulting from the compression of the panels, the vehicle supporting surface further including a device for assisting with holding a rail against a side of the panel.

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

EP 06 25 2526

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

14-11-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 5201467	A	13-04-1993	NONE	
EP 1225279	A2	24-07-2002	DE 10102156 A1	01-08-2002
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