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(54) **Method for reducing aqueous content of oil-based fluids**

(57) A method for reducing the aqueous content of oil-based drilling fluid includes contacting an invert emulsion wellbore fluid with a water absorbing polymer, interacting the water absorbing polymer with the wellbore fluid

for a sufficient period of time so that the water absorbing polymer absorbs at least a portion of the aqueous fluid from the wellbore fluid; and separating the water absorbing polymer containing the absorbed water from the wellbore fluid.

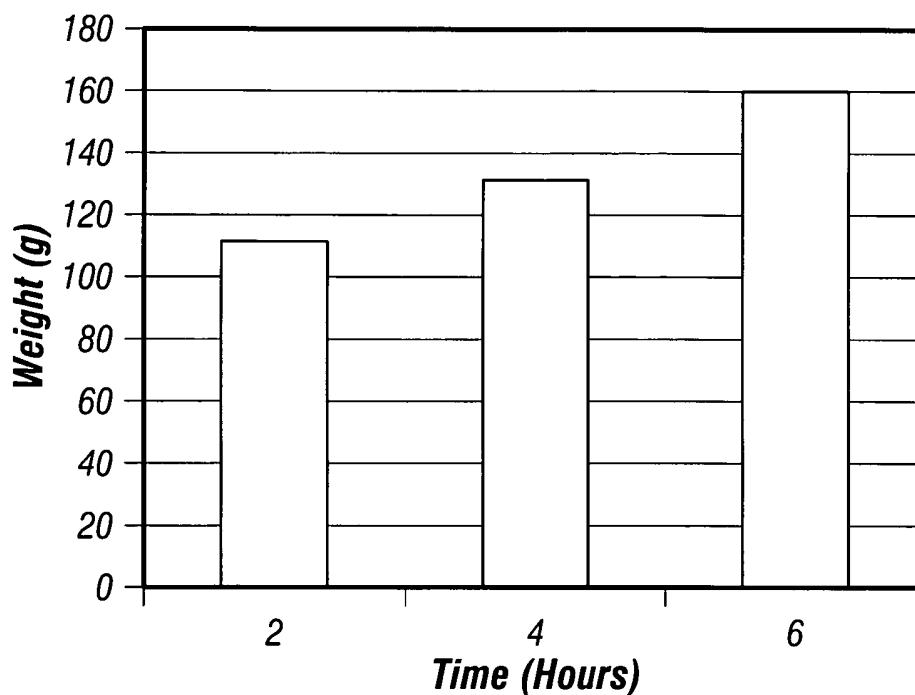


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 25 0049

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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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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E21B C09K C08L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 December 2008	Examiner Niaounakis, Michael
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
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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