



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
13.08.2014 Bulletin 2014/33

(51) Int Cl.:
A41D 13/11 (2006.01) A41D 13/12 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
11.06.2014 Bulletin 2014/24

(21) Application number: **13196334.0**

(22) Date of filing: **09.12.2013**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

- **Lother, Troy**
Kenosha, WI Wisconsin 53142 (US)
- **Kutsch, John H.**
Harvard, IL Illinois 60033 (US)
- **Lackowski, Vince**
Racine, WI Wisconsin 53402 (US)

(30) Priority: **10.12.2012 US 201213709783**

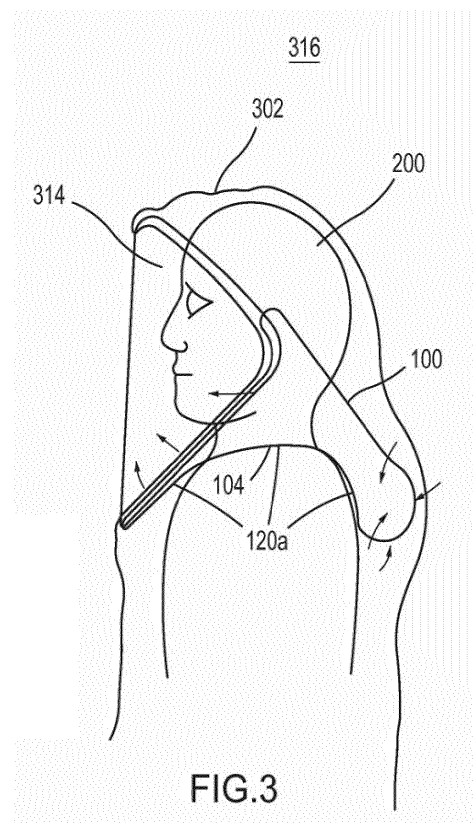
(74) Representative: **Molinari, Marinella et al**
Luppi Crugnola & Partners S.r.l.
Viale Corassori, 54
41124 Modena (IT)

(71) Applicant: **Medline Industries, Inc.**
Mundelein, IL 60060 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Czajka, Francis A.**
Libertyville, IL Illinois 60048 (US)

(54) **Protective apparel and support apparatus**

(57) A protective apparel and support apparatus, comprising: a yoke (2201) including a chest member , the yoke (2201) configured to rest on shoulders of a wearer, the chest member configured to secure a shield of a gown portion, the chest member including an insertion member configured to be removably disposed within a receiving member of a securement device (2202); and the securement device including the receiving member, the securement device configured to support a weight of the yoke (2201) and a weight of the shield.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 13 19 6334

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

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	WO 2012/129396 A1 (MEDLINE IND INC [US]; CZAJKA FRANCIS A [US]; LOTHER TROY [US]; KUTSCH) 27 September 2012 (2012-09-27)	1-3,5-7	INV. A41D13/11 A41D13/12
Y	* paragraphs [0061] - [0063]; figures 10-12 *	4	
X	DE 24 42 881 A1 (FELDMUEHLE ANLAGEN PROD) 25 March 1976 (1976-03-25)	1,2,5,6	
	* page 10, line 25 - page 11; figure 1 *		
Y	GB 1 007 197 A (MIKLOS SIMON) 13 October 1965 (1965-10-13)	4	
	* page 2, lines 13-19; figure 1 *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A41D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 17 March 2014	Examiner D'Souza, Jennifer
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)



Application Number

EP 13 19 6334

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due 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 those claims for which no payment was due.

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:

1-7

☐ The present supplementary 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 (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 13 19 6334

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: 1-7

A protective apparel and support apparatus, comprising: a yoke including a chest member, the yoke configured to rest on shoulders of a wearer, the chest member configured to secure a shield of a gown portion, the chest member including an insertion member configured to be removably disposed within a receiving member of a securement device; and the securement device including the receiving member, the securement device configured to support a weight of the yoke and a weight of the shield.

2. claims: 8-15

A protective apparel and support apparatus, comprising: a yoke including a first connector, the yoke configured to secure a shield of an outer garment, the yoke including a chest member including an air flow path configured to direct an air flow into an interior barrier space defined by the shield; and an inner garment including a second connector configured to receive the first connector.

3. claims: 16-21

A protective apparel and support apparatus, comprising: a first gown portion configured to define a first barrier, the first gown portion including an aperture configured to receive a securement strap of a harness; the harness including the securement strap, the harness configured to be removably coupled to a yoke via the aperture of the first gown portion; the yoke configured to rest on shoulders of a wearer, the yoke including: a chest portion configured to secure a shield of a second gown portion, the second gown portion defining a second barrier and including the shield; and the chest portion including a fan, the fan configured to direct air from outside of the second barrier to the chest portion, the chest portion including a port configured to direct the air from the fan to inside of the second barrier; and the shield configured to be secured to the chest portion of the yoke such that a portion of a weight of the second gown portion is supported by the yoke.

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

EP 13 19 6334

5

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.

17-03-2014

10

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2012129396 A1	27-09-2012	CA 2830794 A1	27-09-2012
		EP 2688434 A1	29-01-2014
		US 2012240316 A1	27-09-2012
		WO 2012129396 A1	27-09-2012

DE 2442881 A1	25-03-1976	NONE	

GB 1007197 A	13-10-1965	NONE	

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

EPO FORM P0459

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