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(54) **A METHOD AND AN APPARATUS FOR EMPTYING VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAYS FILLED WITH ROD LIKE ARTICLES OF THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY, AND CONVERTING UNIT DESIGNED TO CHANGE TRAY'S CONFIGURATION**

(57) An apparatus (1) for emptying of various types of trays (3, 13) for rod like articles (R) of the tobacco industry, the apparatus is provided with a filled tray station (2) of the first type or the second type, a turning unit (10) designed to turn the filled tray of the first type (13) or the second type (3), a lifting unit (11) designed to lift the turning unit (10), a station (23) for emptying of the filled tray of the first (13) or the second type (3), a station (25) for empty trays of the first or the second type, a control system (40) controlling the subassemblies of the apparatus. The apparatus (1) according to the invention is characterised by further comprising a converting unit (21, 35) being adapted to change the configuration of the tray of the first type (13) into a configuration corresponding to the configuration of the second type (3). The converting unit (21, 35) is adapted to change the configuration of the tray of the first type (13) into a configuration corresponding to the configuration of the tray of the second type (3) when the tray of the first type (13) is delivered for unloading, and to maintain the configuration of the tray of the second type (3) when the tray of the second

type (3) is delivered for unloading. The object of the invention is also a converting unit (21, 35) and a tray emptying method using the apparatus (1) and the converting unit (21, 35).

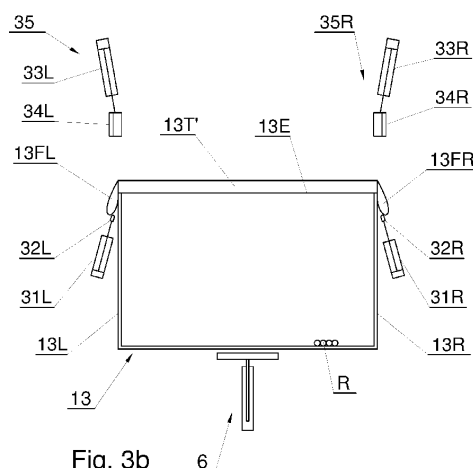


Fig. 3b