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(54) **SAFETY SYSTEM FOR AN UNDERGROUND REFUSE COLLECTING APPARATUS**

(57) The present invention relates to an underground refuse collecting apparatus (10), comprising a receiving pit (11), said receiving pit (11) comprising a pit side wall (12) and a pit opening (14) for receiving a refuse container (16), said apparatus (10) further comprising a refuse container (16) being movably arranged inside the receiving pit (11), and a safety system (40) for closing the pit opening (14), once the refuse container (16) has been removed from the receiving pit (11). In order to provide a low cost reliable multiple safety mechanism to cover the receiving pit (11), when the refuse container (16) is removed of the receiving pit (11), safety system (30) comprises a safety platform (40) and a lifting device for moving the safety platform (40) between different positions, said lifting device comprises a number of elastic strands (50), preferably two or more elastic strands (50), each elastic strand (50) being connected to the safety platform (40). Further, the safety system (30) comprises at least one spring-loaded locking device (60) for holding the safety platform (40) in a defined position, said spring-loaded locking device (60) being mounted to the safety platform (40).

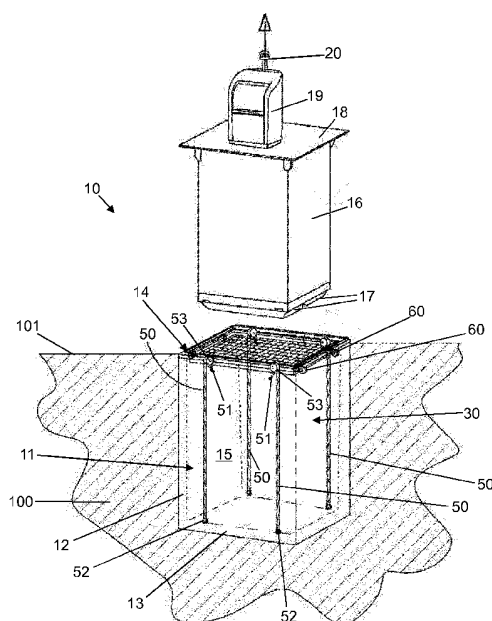


Fig. 3