# 

# (11) EP 4 406 865 A1

#### (12)

## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication: 31.07.2024 Bulletin 2024/31

(21) Application number: 23220456.0

(22) Date of filing: 28.12.2023

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC): B65D 5/24 (2006.01) B65D 5/68 (2006.01) B65D 5/68 (2006.01)

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC): **B65D 5/241; B65D 5/563; B65D 5/685;** B65D 5/40

(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 ME MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA

Designated Validation States:

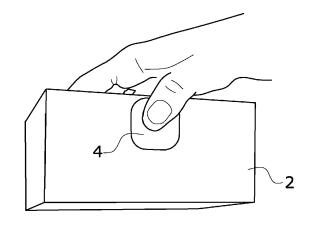
KH MA MD TN

(30) Priority: 25.01.2023 ES 202330110 U

- (71) Applicant: Saica Pack, S.L. 50015 Zaragoza (ES)
- (72) Inventor: ROVIRA MUNTADA, Marti 50015 Zaragoza (ES)
- (74) Representative: Hernández Hernández, Carlos InterAlia Patentes & Marcas Calle Fernando de la Peña 29, 3° Dcha 37005 Salamanca (ES)

## (54) LEAK-TIGHT CONTAINER WITH A SAFETY CLOSURE

The present invention relates to a container (57)comprising a base (1) and a lid (2), wherein there are locking tabs (3) on the base (1), whereas there are windows (4) made on the lid that allow access to the locking tabs (3), characterized in that the sheet used for forming the base (1) comprises a bottom (1.1), first lateral sides (1.2), second lateral sides (1.3), provided with extension flaps (1.4) and with locking tabs (1.5), wherein the first lateral side (1.2) and the second lateral side (1.3) are attached by means of lateral flaps (5) and (6) forming an uninterrupted continuous surface having a folding line (7) at the bisectrix of the angle formed by the lateral sides, obtaining a leak-tight container provided with safety closures that do not allow the accidental or unwanted opening.



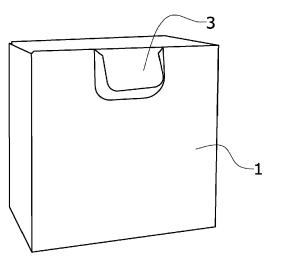


FIG.1

EP 4 406 865 A1

15

# Technical field

**[0001]** As stated in the title of the invention, the object of the present invention relates to a leak-tight container made of corrugated cardboard with a safety closure, i.e., a container that provides liquid tightness essentially at its base and make it have a safety closure against unwanted or accidental opening.

**[0002]** The present invention is characterized by the special design, configuration and materials, especially of the base sheet used in forming the base of the container object of the invention.

**[0003]** Therefore, the present invention falls within the scope of containers providing liquid and moisture tightness.

#### Background art

**[0004]** Containers made of corrugated cardboard providing safety closures against possible accidental or unwanted opening by certain people, such as children, are well known in the prior art, being of particular interest in the case of small children and the products are toxic, such as detergents or the like.

**[0005]** Said safety closures are based on the principles of windows for actuating the retention means, such that when they are pressed simultaneously, they release said retention means and allow the container to be opened.

**[0006]** An example of this type of closures is described in patent EP397577, which describes a box with a lid provided with safety closure means that do not allow the opening without first pressing a tab accessible through a window. In general, there are usually at least two windows arranged such that they must be pressed by different hands, which requires certain dexterity and motor skills, features that are yet to be developed in young children.

**[0007]** Moreover, there are impermeable boxes made of corrugated cardboard that allow avoiding liquids and moisture from damaging the sheet from which the container is made. In some cases, impermeability is achieved by means of inner plastic sheets or plastic coating; however, the shaping of the box requires the gluing or adhesion of independent flaps, so at the joints there are possible points where moisture or liquids can penetrate into the interior.

**[0008]** However, boxes having an improved leak-tightness compared to those known in the prior art and, furthermore, having a safety closure that prevents accidental or unwanted access are unknown in the prior art.

**[0009]** Therefore, the object of the present invention is to develop a leak-tight container provided with a safety closure such as the one described below and the essential features of which are described in claim 1.

#### Summary of the invention

**[0010]** The essential features of the object of the present invention are described in the independent claim and the different embodiments are described in the dependent claims.

[0011] The object of the present invention relates to a leak-tight container with a safety closure comprising a base and a lid, where the base and the lid are formed from separate punched and cut sheets, and where the sheet used in shaping the base is an impermeable sheet. [0012] In order to improve the leak-tightness of the base of the container, the sheet that acts to form said base has a rectangular bottom in which first lateral sides emerge from two facing sides, whereas second lateral sides emerge from the other two facing sides of the bottom, the contiguous lateral sides being attached by respective lateral flaps emerging from each of them, wherein said emerging lateral flaps form a continuous surface having a folding line at the bisectrix of the angle formed by contiguous lateral sides, such that by arranging said lateral sides in the vertical position the lateral flaps are superimposed without any cutting point or area, which results in an improved leak-tightness of the base.

**[0013]** Additionally, the container has a safety closure that prevents the accidental or unwanted opening; to that end, on two of the facing lateral sides there is a perforation on the free edge defining a folding tab, whereas extension flaps emerge from said respective free edge, where the folding tabs are attached by means of a folding line.

**[0014]** Moreover, the sheet that acts to form the safety closure comprises an upper rectangular part in which first lateral sides emerge from two of the opposite sides thereof, whereas second lateral sides emerge from the other two opposite sides, with one of the two pairs of facing lateral sides having windows or openings, as well as lateral extensions and front extensions, wherein the free edge of these front extensions acts as a stop on the free edge of the tabs, impeding their opening.

[0015] As a result of the described features, a container that is leak-tight, at least at its base, provided with safety closures that do not allow the accidental or unwanted opening, particularly by small children, is also achieved. [0016] Unless indicated otherwise, all the technical and scientific elements used in the present specification have the meaning usually understood by a person skilled in the art to which this invention belongs. Methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described in the specification can be used in putting the present invention into practice.

**[0017]** Throughout the description and claims, the word "comprises" and variants thereof do not intend to exclude other technical features, additions, components or steps. For those skilled in the art, other objects, advantages and features of the invention will be inferred in part from the description and in part from the practice of the invention.

#### Brief description of drawings

**[0018]** To complement the description that is being made and for the purpose of helping to better understand the features of the invention, according to a preferred practical embodiment thereof, a set of drawings is attached as an integral part of said description, in which the following is depicted in an illustrative and nonlimiting manner.

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of the container object of the invention, where the process of opening the container can be seen.

Figure 2 shows the sheet used for forming the base. Figure 3 shows the sheet that acts to form the lid.

#### Description of embodiments

**[0019]** A preferred embodiment of the proposed invention is described below in view of the figures.

**[0020]** It can be seen in Figure 1 that the container object of the invention comprises a base (1) and a lid (2), wherein there are locking tabs (3) on the base (1) emerging from the upper free edge and arranged in such a way that they diverge towards the lower part of the container, whereas there are windows (4) made on the lid that allow access to the locking tabs (3).

**[0021]** Figure 2 shows the sheet used for forming the base (1) which, as can be seen, comprises a rectangular bottom (1.1) in which first lateral sides (1.2) emerge from two of its facing sides, whereas second lateral sides (1.3) emerge from the other two facing sides, with these second lateral sides (1.3) being provided with extension flaps (1.4) and with locking tabs (1.5) which are attached by means of a folding line (1.6) with the extension flaps.

**[0022]** Moreover, in the sheet that acts to form the base, the contiguous lateral sides, i.e., the second lateral sides (1.3) and the first lateral sides (1.2), are attached by means of lateral flaps (5) and (6) forming an uninterrupted continuous surface having a folding line (7) at the bisectrix of the angle formed by the first lateral sides (1.2) and the second lateral sides (1.3), such that by arranging the first and second lateral sides (1.2) and (1.3) vertically, said lateral flaps (5) and (6) are superimposed without leaving any connection whatsoever with the exterior.

**[0023]** The sheet that acts to form the base (1) is an impermeable sheet, a feature that is obtained either by means of an inner plastic sheet, or else it can be impermeable in addition to containing a plastic sheet by applying multiple moisture and liquid barrier treatments, and in both cases the penetration of liquids and moisture is avoided.

**[0024]** Figure 3 shows the sheet that acts to form the lid (2) and as can be seen, comprises a rectangular upper area or part (2.1) in which first lateral sides (2.2) emerge from two of its facing sides, whereas second lateral sides emerge from the other two facing sides (2.3) having lateral extensions (2.3.2) and a front extension (2.3.1), said

lateral sides (2.3) having windows (2.4).

**[0025]** The windows (2.4) are in correspondence with the locking tabs (1.5). The front extensions (2.3.1) have a free edge (2.3.1.1) that acts as a stop of the final edge of the locking tabs (1.5) when the lid is closed on the base (1), not being released until both of the locking tabs (1.5) are pressed simultaneously.

[0026] Having sufficiently described the nature of the present invention, as well as the manner of putting it into practice, it is hereby stated that, within its essential nature, it can be carried out into practice in other embodiments which differ in detail from the one indicated by way of example, and to which the protection claimed will also apply, provided that it does not alter, change or modify the fundamental principle thereof.

#### **Claims**

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

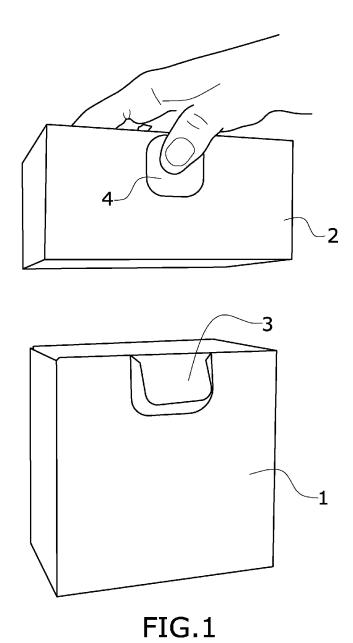
55

- 1. A leak-tight container with a safety closure made of corrugated cardboard comprising a base (1) and a lid (2), wherein there are locking tabs (3) on the base (1) emerging from the upper free edge and arranged in such a way that they diverge towards the lower part of the container, whereas there are windows (4) made on the lid that allow access to the locking tabs (3), characterized in that the sheet used for forming the base (1) comprises a rectangular bottom (1.1) in which first lateral sides (1.2) emerge from two of its facing sides, whereas second lateral sides (1.3) emerge from the other two facing sides, with these second lateral sides (1.3) being provided with extension flaps (1.4) and with locking tabs (1.5) which are attached by means of a folding line (1.6) with the extension flaps, wherein the second lateral sides (1.3) and the first lateral sides (1.2) are attached by means of lateral flaps (5) and (6) forming an uninterrupted continuous surface having a folding line (7) at the bisectrix of the angle formed by the first lateral sides (1.2) and the second lateral sides (1.3), such that by arranging the first and second lateral sides (1.2) and (1.3) vertically, said lateral flaps (5) and (6) are superimposed without leaving any connection whatsoever with the exterior, and the sheet for forming the base (1) is an impermeable sheet.
- 2. The leak-tight container with a safety closure according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the sheet that acts to form the lid (2) comprises a rectangular upper area or part (2.1) in which first lateral sides (2.2) emerge from two of its facing sides, whereas second lateral sides emerge from the other two facing sides (2.3) having lateral extensions (2.3.2) and a front extension (2.3.1), said lateral sides (2.3) having windows (2.4), wherein the windows (2.4) are in correspondence with the locking tabs (1.5), and the front extensions (2.3.1) have a free edge (2.3.1.1) that acts as a stop of the final edge of the locking tabs

(1.5) when the lid is closed on the base (1).

3. The leak-tight container with a safety closure according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the impermeable sheet of the base contains a plastic sheet.

4. The leak-tight container with a safety closure according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the sheet of the base is impermeable has it has several moisture and liquid barrier treatments.



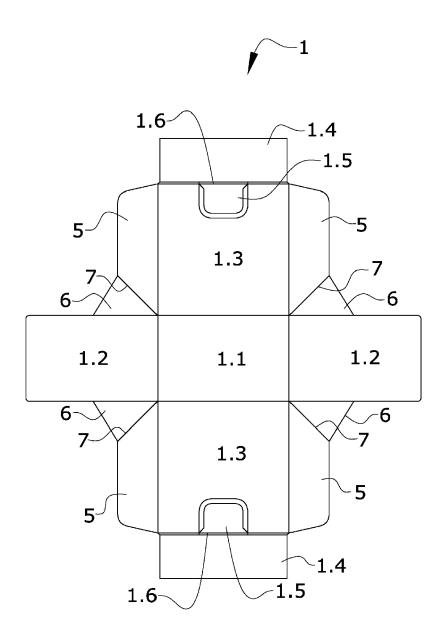


FIG.2

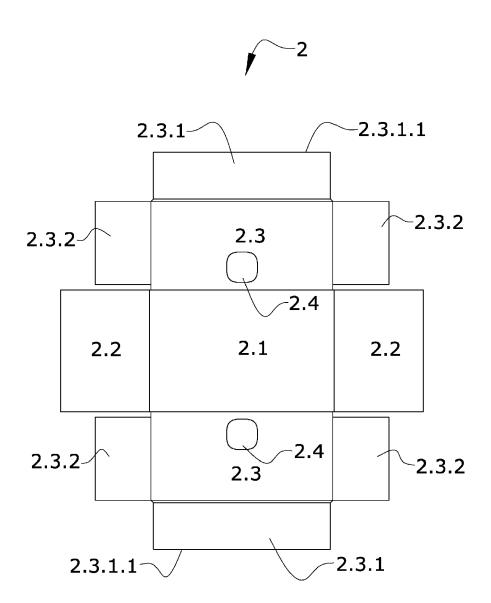


FIG.3



# **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

**Application Number** 

EP 23 22 0456

5

10		
15		
20		
25		

30

35

40

45

50

55

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED				
Category	Citation of document with indication of relevant passages	n, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)	
Y	IT 2019 0001 5360 A1 (IC 2 March 2021 (2021-03-02) * page 19, line 25 - page * page 21, line 5 - page * machine translation page 193-271; figures 1-5 *	2) ge 20, line 10 * e 35, line 12 * ar. 178, 179,	1-4	INV. B65D5/24 B65D5/56 B65D5/68	
Y,D	EP 0 397 577 A1 (BULL Si 14 November 1990 (1990-1 * abstract; figures 1-3	A [FR]) L1-14)	1-4		
Y	EP 1 783 058 A1 (STABERI [DE]) 9 May 2007 (2007-0 * abstract; figures 1-4	05-09)	1-4		
A	US 2022/281633 A1 (COSTA [US]) 8 September 2022 * paragraphs [0013] - [0 figures 1-2 *	(2022-09-08)	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65D	
A	US 2016/137339 A1 (MOLII [ES]) 19 May 2016 (2016 * paragraphs [0013] - [0	-05-19)	1		
Y	EP 3 778 411 A1 (PROCTEI 17 February 2021 (2021-0 * paragraphs [0008], [0 [0044], [0045], [0081]	R & GAMBLE [US]) 02-17) 0037], [0041],  ; figures 1-3 *	1-4		
	The present search report has been dr	,			
	Place of search  Munich	Date of completion of the search  3 June 2024	Lei	jten, René	
X : parl Y : parl doc	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with another ument of the same category anological background	T : theory or principle E : earlier patent doc after the filing date D : document cited in L : document cited for	underlying the i ument, but publi the application r other reasons	nvention shed on, or	

A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

<sup>&</sup>amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

# EP 4 406 865 A1

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

EP 23 22 0456

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.

03-06-2024

10		Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date		
		IT	201900015360	A1	02-03-2021				
		EP	0397577	<b>A</b> 1	14-11-1990	CA	2016548	A1	12-11-1990
						DE	69000890	Т2	27-05-1993
15						EP	0397577	<b>A1</b>	14-11-1990
						ES	2040073	Т3	01-10-1993
						FR	2655951	A2	21-06-1991
						JP	н03639	Α	07-01-1991
						JP	н0662162	в2	17-08-1994
20						US	5040722		20-08-1991
		EP	1783058	<b>A1</b>	09-05-2007	ΑT	E465095	Т1	15-05-2010
							202005017363		15-03-2007
						EP	1783058		09-05-2007
25		បន	2022281633	<b>A1</b>	08-09-2022	US	2022281633	<b>A1</b>	08-09-2022
						US	2023356877		09-11-2023
			2016137339		19-05-2016	NON	ΙE		
30					17-02-2021	CA	3145511		18-02-2021
					_,	EP	3778411		17-02-2021
						JP	2022540895		20-09-2022
						WO	2021030837	<b>A1</b>	18-02-2021
35									
40									
45									
50									
	129								
	FORM P0459								
55	<u>မှု</u>								

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

# EP 4 406 865 A1

#### REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

# Patent documents cited in the description

• EP 397577 A [0006]