

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 September 2004 (16.09.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/079678 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

G08B

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2003/040827

(81) **Designated States (national)**: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD,
GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:

19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

10/377,558 27 February 2003 (27.02.2003) US

(84) **Designated States (regional)**: ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) **Title: SELF-MODULATING INERT GAS GIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM**

(57) **Abstract:** A relatively low pressure inert gas hazard suppression system (20) is provided which is designed to protect a room (22) or the like from the effects of fire or other hazard. The system (20) includes a plurality of pressurized inert gas cylinders (24) each equipped with a valve unit (26); each valve unit (26) is in turn coupled via a conduit (28) to a delivery manifold (30). The respective valve units (26) are operable to deliver gas from the cylinders (24) at a generally constant pressure (usually around 10 - 100 bar) throughout a substantial portion of the time of gas delivery, to thereby provide effective hazard suppression without the need for expensive High-pressure gas handling and distribution hardware and a reduction in room venting area due to lower room over-pressurization. Each valve unit (26) has a valve body (48) and a shiftable piston-type sealing member (56). Gas pressure from the cylinder (24) and a spring assembly (184) biases the member 56 to the valve open position, this being counterbalanced by gas pressure within equalization and modulation chambers (180,182) provided in the valve unit (26). When a hazard is detected, the valve units (26) are actuated by draining of gas from the modulation chambers (182), allowing gas flow from the cylinders (24). As gas discharge proceeds, gas flows into and out of the modulation chambers (182) so as to achieve the desired generally constant pressure gas output. Near the end of gas discharge, the spring assembly (184) becomes predominant and holds the valve unit (26) open until all gas is discharged.



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