Claims

1. A method for cleaning an article, the method including the steps of:

applying a water jet to said article;

engaging said article with a conveyor arrangement by a force applied by the water jet.;

moving the article in a reciprocal motion forward and backward relative to said water jet by said conveyor arrangement then;

disengaging said article from the conveyor arrangement;

wherein the water jet is directed upwardly at an angle to the vertical axis to the article.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the angle is zero, and so the water jet is vertical.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the water jet contacts said article and pushes said article upwards into engagement with said conveyor arrangement, wherein the applied force maintains engagement through frictional force.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the engaging step further includes moving a rail relative to the conveyor arrangement so as to ensure the applied force is applied to the article.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4including the step, after the reciprocal moving step, of:

repeating the reciprocal moving step at least twice prior to moving article forward.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the engaging step includes the steps of:

gripping a rear, and edges of a front, of said article.

7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said water jet includes a plurality of sub jets directed to said front, said reciprocal moving step including moving said article to move the article passed said plurality of sub jets.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further including the step of varying any one or a combination of water jet pressure, number of reciprocal cycles, the period of the cycle and angle of the water jet.

9. A cleaning apparatus for cleaning an article including

a housing having an entrance and exit bay for receiving and delivering an article;

a conveyor arrangement for engaging the article;

a water jet directed upwards at the article engaged by the conveyor arrangement by a force applied by the water jet;

said conveyor arrangement arranged to move in a reciprocal movement relative to the water jet for a pre-determined number of cycles prior to moving said article to the exit bay.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the water jet comprises an array of nozzles, said nozzles arranged to direct a plurality of sub-jets.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the angle is zero, and so the water jet is vertical.

12. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water jet contacts the article and pushes the article upwards into engagement with the conveyor arrangement, wherein the applied force maintains engagement through frictional force.

13. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a rail moves relative to the conveyor arrangement so as to ensure the applied force is applied to the article.

14. The apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the conveyor arrangement comprises a driven roller and a belt mounted thereto.

15. The apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the conveyor arrangement comprises a plurality of rollers in series, at least one of which is a driven roller.

16. The apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 15, wherein operating conditions are varied, said operating conditions comprising any one or a

combination of: water jet pressure, number of reciprocal cycles, the period of the cycle and angle of the water jet.