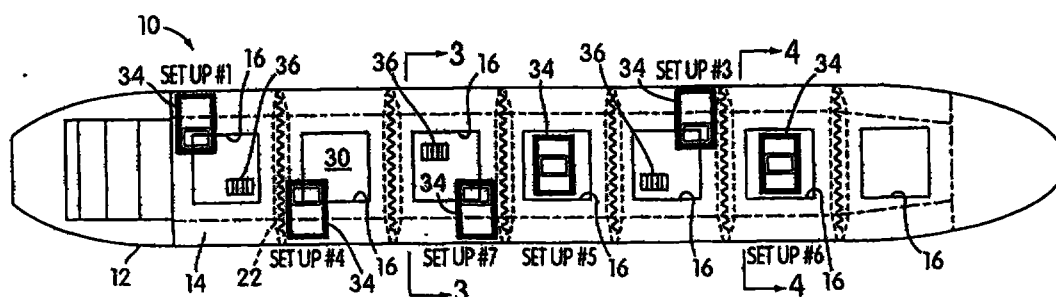


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(54) Title: SELF-CONTAINED STAGING SYSTEM FOR CLEANING AND PAINTING BULK CARGO HOLDS



(57) Abstract

Each of a plurality of cargo holds (18) of a bulk carrier vessel (10) has a self-contained staging system (34) lowered into it, from the platform track (68) of which workers operate semi-automatic blasting machines (42) that are mounted onto the platform (56, 62). The set-up for each vessel (10) also includes, for each hold (18), a ventilation unit (38) provided on a hatch plug (106), and a transporter (32) for the staging system. Groups of staging systems (34) are served by on-deck air compressors (40). Staging systems (34) actually engaging in blasting are served by recycling shot blast units (36) which recycle and supply steel shot. Following blast cleaning, the cleaned surfaces are painted from the platforms.