

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 April 2008 (03.04.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/039724 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
B65D 30/00 (2006.01) **B65D 30/08** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/079316

(22) International Filing Date:
24 September 2007 (24.09.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/826,810 25 September 2006 (25.09.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

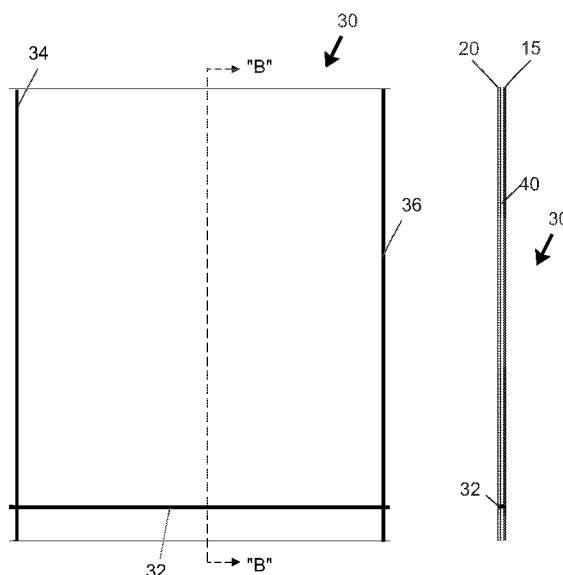
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT,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

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
26 June 2008

(54) Title: HIGH INTEGRITY COMPOSITE BAGS ADAPTED FOR STEAM STERILIZATION



(57) Abstract: A sterilizable composite bag or pouch at a temperature of at least about 125° C includes a first sheet comprising a gas-permeable but bacteria-impermeable polyolefin material, a second sheet comprising a first layer comprising a polyolefin with a density of less than 0.94 g/cm³ disposed between a second layer and a third layer comprising a high density polyolefin and having a density of at least 0.94 g/cm³, with the first sheet and the second sheet being locally thermally welded to one another to form a bag or pouch defining a cavity suitable for holding an article. A method includes thermally bonding such layers to form a plurality of bags and subjecting the plurality of bags to an autoclave steam sterilization process, wherein each second sheet thereafter remains pinhole-free and substantially impermeable to bacteria.

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