CLAIMS

1. A diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or a support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane for mounting in or on a container, such as a container for liquid, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane is/are configured for mounting within a neck portion of a container.

2. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of claim 1, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane comprises a frangible diaphragm, such as configured to be broken on initial opening.

3. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of claim 1 or 2, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member comprise/s a precious or semi-precious material or collectible and/or a metallic material, such as a food grade metallic material, such as food grade stainless steel and/or optionally a metallic and/or polymeric film, foil or sheet material and/or food grade material.

4. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm, membrane or seal is configured to be spaced from an opening or outlet of a container and/or a closure.

5. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of claims 1 to 4, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm, membrane or seal comprise/s an insert/s poisitionable at least partially within or inserted into a mouth or neck portion of a container.

6. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm, seal or membrane is/are configured to be mounted within a fluid passage or throughbore of a container neck or mouth portion.

7. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and the diaphragm, seal or membrane is/are configured to be mounted upstream of a fluid outlet or exit from the container and/or a closure.

8. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm, seal or membrane is/are substantially non-detachably attached to or adhered to or integrated into the container.

9. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm, membrane or seal is configured to be located at a position between the mouth or opening and the main body or chamber of the container.

10. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane is a rigid, member, such as a rigid annular member.

11. The diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane of any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane comprises an upper aperture or opening configured to be more distal to a body of the container than a lower aperture or opening that is configured to be more proximal to a body of the container, and wherein the upper aperture is smaller than the lower aperture, the seal, membrane or diaphragm being mounted to an underside of the upper annular portion of the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane.

12. A seal or closure assembly comprising the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, the seal or closure assembly optionally being adapted for mounting in or

on a neck portion of a container, such as a container for liquid, such as a bottle or glass bottle.

13. A container, such as a glass container for liquid, the container comprising the diaphragm, membrane or seal of any of claims 1 to 11 and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, membrane or seal of any of claims 1 to 11; and/or the closure assembly of claim 12.

14. The container of claim 13, the container comprising:

a main body or chamber for containing fluid;

a mouth or opening for inserting and/or removing fluid to and/or from the main body or chamber of the container;

a neck portion between the mouth or opening and the main body or chamber;

wherein the container comprises the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member mounted in the neck portion.

15. The container of either of claims 13 or 14, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are located at a position in the neck portion distal to the mouth or opening.

16. The container of any of claims 13 to 15, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are mounted in an intermediate or mid section of the neck portion.

17. The container of any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are separated or spaced from the mouth or opening such that the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are visible through an unobscured portion of the container, such as visible laterally through a transparent or translucent portion of the container that is not covered or concealed.

18. The container of any of claims 13 to 17, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm support member is/are separated or spaced from the mouth or opening so as to provide a portion of the neck between the mouth or opening and the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm support member for receiving a further closure means, such as a stopper, lid or top for additional closure or

sealing prior to initial opening and/or subsequent closure or sealing of the container, such as following initial opening of the container by breaking the diaphragm, seal or membrane.

19. The container of any of claims 13 to 18, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are separated or spaced from the mouth or opening so as to impede access to the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member to impede removal and/or replacement of the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member.

20. The container of any of claims 13 to 19, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member is/are separated or spaced from the mouth or opening of the container, for example, so as to provide an apparently floating or suspended diaphragm, seal or membrane.

21. The container of any of claims 13 to 20, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm support member for a/the diaphragm, membrane or seal is/are non-removably mounted in the neck portion.

22. The container of any of claims 13 to 21, wherein the neck portion comprises a portion or section of reduced thickness along a length of the neck portion between the opening or mouth and the main body or chamber, the portion or section of reduced thickness being located at an intermediate position along the length of the neck portion between the opening or mouth and the main body or chamber, the intermediate position corresponding to the mounting position of the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member.

23. The container of claim 22, wherein the section of reduced thickness is defined by an internal recess for receiving the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the support member for a diaphragm, membrane or seal.

24. The container of any of claims 13 to 23, wherein the diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or the diaphragm support member form/s a first portion of a closure assembly, the first portion of the closure assembly being mounted to the container prior to the formation or mounting or attachment of a portion of the container, the portion of

the container to be mounted or attached at least partially defining the mouth or opening.

25. The container of any of claims 13 to 24, wherein the diaphragm support member is mounted to the container such that the diaphragm, seal or membrane is visible at least beneath the diaphragm support member when mounted in the container at least when the diaphragm, seal or membrane is opened, ruptured or broken, the broken or ruptured membrane being visible such as to allow an indication of previous opening or tampering.

26. A method of sealing a container, such as a glass container for an alcoholic beverage, the method comprising locating a diaphragm, seal or membrane and/or a support member for a/the diaphragm, seal or membrane at a position between a mouth or opening of a container and a main body or chamber of a container, such as at an intermediate position in a neck portion of the container.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the method comprises:

mounting or installing a first portion of a closure assembly with a first installation method to the container in order to seal the container after the container has been filled, the first portion of the closure assembly comprising the support member and/or the diaphragm, seal or membrane for sealing the container; and

mounting a second portion of the closure assembly to the container with a second installation method;

wherein the first installation method comprises an approved foodgrade installation method.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the second installation method comprises a glass joining technique, such as UV bonding, of the second portion of the closure assembly so as to form a substantially continuous or homogenous glass container with a glass neck and mouth portion.

29. The method of either of claims 27 or 28, further comprising a step of providing a further closure means, such as by inserting or applying a cork or stopper or the like.

30. A container, such as a container for liquid, comprising a body or component or member comprising a precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible.

31. The container of claim 30, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible is attached or fixed to the container such that removal or detachment of the precious or semi-precious material or and/or collectible from the container substantially prevents reuse of the container.

32. The container of either of claims 30 or 31, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible is non-detachably attached or fixed to the container.

33. The container of any of claims 30 to 32, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible comprises a coating or an insert or an attachment of the container and/or closure assembly or device.

34. The container of any of claims 30 to 33, wherein the container comprises a bottle, such as a glass bottle, such as for an alcoholic beverage.

35. 35, wherein the container comprises a neck or mouth portion and the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible or member is provided in or on the mouth or neck portion of the container.

36. The container of any of claims 30 to 35, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible comprises a ring or annular member, such as within the neck portion.

37. The container of any of claims 30 to 35, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible comprises an annular or cylindrical member or sleeve on the neck portion, such as mounted on an exterior of the neck portion.

38. The container of any of claims 30 to 36, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible is made from a conventional precious or semi precious material such as a precious or semi-precious stone or gem or a precious metal, such as gold, silver, platinum or the like, or alloys, mixtures or other derivatives thereof;

and/or a semi-precious metal such as brass, pewter, steel, nickel or the like, or alloys, mixtures or other derivatives thereof.

39. The container of any of claims 30 to 36, wherein the container and/or the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible is made from a food grade material.

40. The container of any of claims 30 to 39, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible represents a substantial value relative to the container or the rest of the container or the other materials of the container.

41. The container of any of claims 30 to 40, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible is made from or comprised in a plastic or polymer, such as included as an additive to a master batch.

42. The container of any of claims 30 to 41, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible or member comprises or is attached or operatively associated with a diaphragm, seal or membrane.

43. A closure assembly or device configured to be applied to a mouth or neck portion of a container, such as a container for liquid, the assembly or device comprising a precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible.

44. The closure assembly or device of claim 43, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible is configured to be attached to the container such that removal or detachment of the precious or semi-precious material or collectible from the container substantially prevents reuse of the container.

45. The closure assembly or device of claim 43, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible is non-detachably attached to the container.

46. A precious or semi-precious component or member adapted for use in or on the container of any of claims 13 to 25 and/or claims 30 to 42 and/or the closure assembly or device of any of claims 43 to 45.

47. The precious or semi-precious component or member of claim 46, wherein the precious or semi-precious component or member is configured to be provided in or on the mouth or neck portion of the container.

48. The precious or semi-precious component or member of claim 46 or 47, wherein the precious or semi-precious component or member is configured to be attached to or comprised in the container such that the precious or semi-precious component or member is only detachable or removable from the container by damaging the container such that the container becomes substantially non-reusable.

49. The precious or semi-precious component or member of claim 46 or 47, wherein the precious or semi-precious component or member is configured to be non-detachably attached to the container, such as integration, adhesion, welding or the like.

50. The precious or semi-precious component or member of any of claims 46 to 49, wherein the precious or semi-precious component or member comprises at least one of:

a ring or disc or sleeve, and/or

a frangible diaphragm.

51. A kit comprising:

a container, such as a glass container for liquid, the container comprising a diaphragm, seal or membrane;

and an elongate member for breaking or opening or puncturing the diaphragm, seal or membrane to open the container.

52. The kit of claim 51, wherein the container comprises the diaphragm, membrane or seal of any of claims 1 to 11 and/or the support member for a/the diaphragm, membrane or seal of any of claims 1 to 11; and/or the container comprises the container according to any of claims 13 to 25 or 30 to 42.

53. The kit of claim 51 or 52, wherein the elongate member comprises a handle and a blade, such as a sgian dubh, dagger, knife or the like.

54. The kit of any of claims 51 to 53, wherein the kit comprises a further closure means, the further closure means being in addition to the diaphragm, membrane or seal.

55. The kit of any of claims 51 to 54, wherein the kit is provided in a box, such as a presentation box.

56. A method of opening a container, such as a container according to any of claims 13 to 25 or 30 to 42, the method comprising breaking, rupturing or perforating a diaphragm, seal or membrane located at a position between, such as intermediate, a mouth or opening of the container and a main body or chamber of the container, wherein the method comprises breaking, rupturing or perforating the diaphragm, seal or membrane with an elongate member, such as a sgian dubh or other ceremonial dagger.

57. The method of claim 56, further comprising a preceding step of removing a further closure means, such as a cork or stopper, from the mouth or opening of the container prior to the breaking, rupturing or perforating of the diaphragm, seal or membrane with the elongate member.

58. The method of claim 56 or 57, further comprising a succeeding step of applying a/the further closure means, such as a cork or stopper, to the mouth or opening after the breaking, rupturing or perforating of the diaphragm, seal or membrane with the elongate member, such as to re-close or re-seal the container.

CLAIMS

1. A container, such as a glass container for liquid, the container comprising a seal and a support member for the seal configured for mounting within a neck portion of the container wherein

the support member comprises a precious or semi-precious material or collectible and/or metallic material, and the seal comprises a metallic and/or polymeric sheet material.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the support member comprises a rigid annular member.

3. The container of either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the support member precious or semi-precious material and/or metallic material comprises a food grade metallic material such as food grade stainless steel, and the seal metallic or metallic and polymer sheet material comprises a food grade metallic material such as food grade stainless steel.

4. The container of any of claims 1 to 3, the container comprising:

a chamber for containing fluid;

a mouth for inserting and/or removing fluid to and/or from the chamber of the container;

wherein

the neck portion between the mouth and the chamber;

and

the container comprises the seal and the support member mounted in the neck portion.

5. The container of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the seal and/or the support member is/are located at a position in the neck portion distal to a/the mouth of the container.

6. The container of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the seal and/or the support member is/are mounted in an intermediate section of the neck portion.

7. The container of any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the seal and the support member are spaced from a/the mouth such that the seal and/or the support member is/are visible through an unobscured portion of the container, such as visible laterally through a transparent or translucent portion of the container that is not covered or concealed.

8. The container of any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the seal and/or the support member is/are spaced from the a/mouth so as to provide a portion of the neck between the mouth and the seal and/or the support member for receiving a further closure means, such as a stopper, for additional closure prior to initial opening and/or subsequent closure of the container such as following initial opening of the container by breaking the seal.

9. The container of any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the seal and/or the support member is/are spaced from a/the mouth so as to impede access to the seal and/or the support member to impede removal and/or replacement of the seal and/or the support member

10. The container of any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the seal and/or the support member is/are spaced from a/the mouth of the container, for example, so as to provide an apparently floating seal .

11. The container of any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the seal and/or the support member for the seal is/are non-removably mounted in the neck portion.

12. The container of any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the neck portion comprises a section of reduced thickness along a length of the neck portion between a/the mouth and a/the chamber, the section of reduced thickness being located at an intermediate position along the length of the neck portion

between the mouth and the chamber, the intermediate position corresponding to the mounting position of the seal and/or the support member.

13. The container of claim 12, wherein the section of reduced thickness is defined by an internal recess for receiving the seal and/or the support member for theseal.

14. The container of any of claims 1 to 13, wherein the seal and/or the support member form/s a first portion of a closure assembly, the first portion of the closure assembly being mounted to the container prior to the mounting of a portion of the container, the portion of the container to be mounted at least partially defining a/the mouth.

15. The container of any of claims 1 to 14, wherein the support member is mounted to the container such that the seal is visible at least beneath the support member when mounted in the container at least when the seal is opened or broken, the opened or broken seal being visible such as to allow an indication of previous opening or tampering.

16. The container of any of claims 1 to 15, wherein the container comprises a bottle, such as a glass bottle, such as for an alcoholic beverage.

17. The container of any of claims 1 to 16, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible comprises an annular or cylindrical member or sleeve on the neck portion, such as mounted on an exterior of the neck portion.

18. The container of any of claims 1 to 17, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible is made from a conventional precious or semi-precious material such as a precious or semi-precious stone or gem or a precious metal, such as gold, silver, platinum or the like, or alloys, mixtures or

other derivatives thereof; and/or a semi-precious metal such as brass, pewter, steel, nickel or the like, or alloys, mixtures or other derivatives thereof.

19. The container of any of claims 1 to 18, wherein the container is made from a food grade material.

20. The container of any of claims 1 to 19, wherein the precious or semi-precious material and/or collectible represents a substantial value relative to the container or the rest of the container or the other materials of the container.

21. The container of any of claims 1 to 20, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible is made from or comprised in a plastic or polymer, such as included as an additive to a master batch.

22. The container of any of claims 1 to 21, wherein the precious or semi-precious material or collectible comprises or is attached or operatively associated with the seal.

23. A method of sealing a container according to any of claims 1 to 22, the method comprising locating a seal and a support member for the seal at a position between a/the mouth of the container and a/the chamber of the container, such as at an intermediate position in a neck portion of the container.

24. A method of opening a container such as a container according to any of claims 1 to 22, the method comprising breaking the seal located at a position between, such as intermediate, a/the mouth of the container and a/the chamber of the container, wherein the method comprises breaking the seal with an elongate member, such as a sgian dubh or other ceremonial dagger.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising a preceding step of removing a further closure means, such as a stopper, from the mouth of the container prior to the breaking of the seal with the elongate member.

26. The method of claim 24 or 25, further comprising a succeeding step of applying a/the further closure means, such as a stopper, to the mouth after the breaking of the seal with the elongate member, such as to re-close or re-seal the container.

27. A seal and/or support member for a/the seal for mounting within a neck portion of a container according to any of claims 1 to 22.

28. The seal and the support member for the seal of claim 27, wherein the seal comprises a frangible diaphragm, such as configured to be broken on initial opening.

29. The seal and the support member for the seal of either of claims 27 or 28, wherein the support member for the seal and the seal are configured to be spaced from a mouth of the container and/or a closure.

30. The seal and the support member for the seal of claims 27 to 29, wherein the support member for the seal and the seal comprise an insert positionable at least partially within or inserted into a/the mouth or neck portion of a container.

31. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 30, wherein the support member for the seal and the seal are configured to be mounted within a fluid throughbore of a/the container neck portion.

32. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 31, wherein the support member for the seal and the seal are configured to be mounted upstream of a/the mouth of the container and/or a closure.

33. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 32, wherein the support member for the seal and the seal are substantially non-detachably attached to the container.

34. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 33, wherein the support member for the seal and/or the seal is/are configured to be located at a position between a/the mouth and a/the chamber of the container.

35. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 34, wherein the support member for the seal is a rigid, member, such as a rigid annular member.

36. The seal and the support member for the seal of any of claims 27 to 35, wherein the support member for the seal comprises an upper aperture configured to be more distal to a/the chamber of the container than a lower aperture that is configured to be more proximal to a/the chamber of the container, and wherein the upper aperture is smaller than the lower aperture, the seal being mounted to an underside of the upper annular portion of the support member for the seal.