

Claims:

1. Nebulizer for a fluid, comprising: an insertable container containing the fluid, and a counter device for counting operations of the nebulizer, wherein the nebulizer can be opened for replacing the container, and

wherein the counter device ~~is configured to, in use, block~~ comprises control means for controlling blocking of opening of the nebulizer in such a way that the opening of the nebulizer is blocked until a predetermined number of operations has been reached or exceeded, and ~~to permit that the opening of the nebulizer to be opened~~ is permitted when the predetermined number of operations has been reached or exceeded.

2. Nebulizer according to claim 1, wherein the nebulizer comprises a housing part which can be detached or opened for replacing the container.

3. Nebulizer according to claim 2, wherein the container is inseparable from the housing part.

4. Nebulizer according to claim 3, wherein the nebulizer or counter device is constructed such that the housing part having an empty or used container is blocked against reuse and/or reconnection with the nebulizer.

5. Nebulizer according to one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the nebulizer or the housing part comprises a securing means for holding the container in the housing part inseparably, and wherein the container is moveable back and forth within the nebulizer and/or relative to the housing part during conveying of the fluid, pressure generation and/or nebulization.

6. Nebulizer according to one of the claims 2 to 5, wherein the counter device interlocks the housing part with the nebulizer until the predetermined number of operation has been reached or exceeded.
7. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the counter device or part thereof is inseparable from the container, ~~and/or~~ wherein the counter device ~~counts~~ only operations of the nebulizer with one single container.
8. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the nebulizer comprises a monitoring device for counting the total number of operations of the nebulizer, in particular with multiple containers.
9. Nebulizer according to claim 8, wherein the monitoring device is configured to lock the nebulizer against further operation or use when the total number of operations has reached or exceeded a predetermined value.
10. Nebulizer according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the monitoring device drives the counter device, in particular, wherein the counter device can be separated from the monitoring device and is replaceable.
11. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the ~~counter device~~ ~~comprises a common control means, in particular, is a rotatable control ring, for controlling blocking of opening of the nebulizer and/or for blocking an associated container or housing part against further use and/or reconnection with the nebulizer.~~
12. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the control means blocks an associated container or housing part against further use and/or reconnection with the nebulizer.
- ~~12~~13. Nebulizer according to ~~claim 11~~ one of the preceding claims, wherein the control means comprises an axial recess so that the control means can be blocked by engagement into the recess and wherein an associated control element is engageable into this recess to lock the nebulizer, respectively when the predetermined number of operations has been reached or exceeded.

~~13~~14. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the nebulizer is configured to be blocked in form fit manner, in particular, by the counter device, until the predetermined number of operations has been reached or exceeded.

~~14~~15. Nebulizer according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the nebulizer is constructed as an inhaler, particularly for medical aerosol treatment.

16. Nebulizer according to claim 5, wherein the securing means comprises a metal and/or stamping part.

17. Nebulizer according to claim 5, wherein the securing means comprises a cage.

18. Nebulizer according to claim 17, wherein the cage encompasses an end portion of the container.

19. Nebulizer according to one of claims 5 or 16 to 18, wherein the securing means comprises holding and/or locking elements.

20. Nebulizer according to claim 19, wherein the holding and/or locking elements are like fingers, arms or claws and/or extend at least axially or in the direction of the movement of the container and/or can be flexed radially.

21. Nebulizer according to one of claims 5 or 16 to 20, wherein the securing means comprises or holds a piercing element for opening a venting hole of the container.

22. Nebulizer according to one of claims 5 or 16 to 21, wherein the securing means forms a transportation lock comprising locking elements which hold the container unmoveably in the delivery state of the nebulizer and which can be opened such that the container is axially moveable back and forth within the nebulizer and/or relative to the housing part during conveying of the fluid, pressure generation and/or nebulization.