It is a disadvantage of such dock levelling systems that there will be gaps between the side panels 3a and 3b of the ramp 3 of the leveller 1 and the side walls 12a and 12b of the recess 10. Such gaps can allow the entry of unwanted pests such as rodents or the like.

EP 2986544 A1 published 24 February 2016 discloses a gap seal for a loading ramp, with a magnetic carrier strip to which is attached a surface element with an essentially omega-shaped cross-section. It is a disadvantage of this gap seal that it is complex to construct, and once constructed the essentially omega-shaped cross-section of the surface element means it is bulky and difficult to store or transport. Further, it is not effective to stop pests such as rodents, as they will simply chew through the surface element.

The present invention seeks to mitigate the above-mentioned problems. Alternatively and/or additionally, the present invention seeks to provide improved seals for dock levelling systems, methods of sealing gaps in dock levelling systems, and methods of arranging seals for dock levelling systems for storage or transportation.

## Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention there is provided a seal for a dock levelling system comprising a movable ramp arranged within a recess, wherein the seal is for sealing a gap between a side of the movable ramp and a wall of the recess, the seal comprising:

a flexible strip formed of a flexible material having a length;

on each longitudinal edge of the flexible strip, respective attachment strips for attaching the flexible strip to the side of the movable ramp, wherein the seal is configurable to move between a flat state, in which the attachments strips are separated relative to each other by the flexible material of the flexible strip between the attachments strips, and the flexible material of the flexible strip between the attachments strips do not form a closed loop, and a sealed state; wherein in the sealed state, the seal is arranged so that the attachment strips

are attached adjacently to each other and to the side of the movable ramp, and the material of the flexible strip between the attachment strips forms a closed loop extending out from the side

of the movable ramp to the wall of the recess, to seal the gap between the side of the movable ramp and the wall of the recess; and

wherein each attachment strip includes a discontinuity, such that each attachments strip is discontinuous along the length of the flexible strip, and wherein at least the flexible strip is configured to be folded transversely relative to the length of the flexible strip at the discontinuity when the seal is in flat state, thereby reducing the length of at least the flexible strip; and wherein at least the flexible strip is folder longitudinally along the material of the flexible strip between the attachment strips.

By having the seal comprise attachment strips it can be attached using those to the side of the movable ramp, and when the attachment strips are positioned adjacently the flexible strip between the adjacent strips will form the closed loop that extend across the gap to touch the wall of the recess, so sealing the gap. As the closed loop is formed of flexible material, it can change shape if required, in particular being pushed flatter by the wall of the recess so that it fits the gap exactly. However, as the attachment is provided by having the two separate attachment strips on the longitudinal edges of the flexible strip, and the closed loop is only formed when the attachment strips are positioned adjacent to each other, prior to use the seal can be kept in a flat form prior to be use, making it easier to store and transport, and also easier to initially construct.

The flexible material may be a textile. The flexible material may be woven. The flexible material may be a mesh, may be a wire mesh, and may be a metal wire mesh. Advantageously the flexible material is Kevlar. Kevlar provides a suitably flexible and resilient material to form the seal, but is also very tough so provides a good barrier against damage by rodents or the like, in particular damage by chewing.

Preferably, each attachment strip is a magnetic strip. This makes the seal easy to position in place, and to adjust or remove if required. Alternatively, each attachment strip may an adhesive strip, or other suitable attaching means.

Advantageously, each attachment strip is discontinuous longitudinally. Advantageously, discontinuities in a first attachment strip of the attachment strips

are aligned longitudinally with discontinuities in the second attachment strip of the attachment strips. Advantageously, the seal is arranged for storage or transportation, and the flexible strip is folded transversely at one or more discontinuities in the attachment strips. This reduces the length of the seal, making storage, transportation or the like easier.

The seal may be arranged for storage or transportation, and the flexible strip folded longitudinally along the material of the textile strip between the attachment