Claims:

1.

A bottle of one-piece construction that includes:

a body having a shoulder, a neck finish and a neck extending from said shoulder to said neck finish,

said shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

said neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis, and

a major portion of said neck having an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis smoothly blending into said circular cross sections at said shoulder and said neck finish.

2.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section has outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions.

3.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said neck has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

4.

A bottle of one-piece glass, metal or plastic construction that includes:

a body having a shoulder, a neck finish and a neck extending between said shoulder and said neck finish,

said shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

said neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to said central axis, and

a major portion of said neck having an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to said central axis and smoothly blending into said circular cross sections at said shoulder and said neck finish,

said elliptical cross section having outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions, wherein said end portions are mirror images of each other and said side portions are mirror images of each other.

5.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said neck has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

6.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said body is generally cylindrical.

7.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein a ratio between diameters of said side portions and said end portions is 0.76.

8.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section has outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions, wherein said end portions are mirror images of each other and said side portions are mirror images of each other.

9.

The bottle set forth in claim 8 wherein a ratio between diameters of said side portions and said end portions is 0.76.

10.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said body is generally cylindrical.

11.

A bottle of one-piece glass, metal or plastic construction that includes:

a generally cylindrical body with a shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

a neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis, and

a neck extending between the shoulder and the neck finish and being of substantially uniform wall thickness, wherein a major portion of the neck has an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis that smoothly blends into the circular cross sections at the shoulder and the neck finish, the elliptical cross section having mirror-image outwardly convex end portions and mirror-image outwardly convex side portions extending between the end portions.

12.

The bottle set forth in claim 11 wherein a ratio between diameters of the side portions and the end portions is 0.76.

13.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.

14.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.

15.

The bottle set forth in claim 11 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.

16.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length.

17.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length.

18.

The bottle set forth in claim 11 wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length.

CLAIMS

1.

A bottle of one-piece construction that includes:

a body having a shoulder, a neck finish and a neck extending from said shoulder to said neck finish,

said shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

said neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis, and

a major portion of said neck having an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis smoothly blending into said circular cross sections at said shoulder and said neck finish, wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length.

2.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section has outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions.

3.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said neck has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

4.

A bottle of one-piece glass, metal or plastic construction that includes:

a body having a shoulder, a neck finish and a neck extending between said shoulder and said neck finish,

said shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

said neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to said central axis, and

a major portion of said neck having an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to said central axis and smoothly blending into said circular cross sections at said shoulder and said neck finish, wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length,

said elliptical cross section having outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions, wherein said end portions are mirror images of each other and said side portions are mirror images of each other.

5.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said neck has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

6.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said body is generally cylindrical.

7.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein a ratio between diameters of said side portions and said end portions is 0.76.

8.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section has outwardly convex end portions and outwardly convex side portions extending between said end portions, wherein said end portions are mirror images of each other and said side portions are mirror images of each other.

9.

The bottle set forth in claim 8 wherein a ratio between diameters of said side portions and said end portions is 0.76.

10.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said body is generally cylindrical.

11.

A bottle of one-piece glass, metal or plastic construction that includes:

a generally cylindrical body with a shoulder having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to a central axis of the bottle,

a neck finish having a circular cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis, and

a neck extending between the shoulder and the neck finish and being of substantially uniform wall thickness, wherein a major portion of the neck has an elliptical cross section around and perpendicular to the central axis that smoothly blends into the circular cross sections at the shoulder and the neck finish, wherein said major portion of said neck bulges convexly radially outward along its length, the elliptical cross section having mirror-image outwardly convex end portions and mirror-image outwardly convex side portions extending between the end portions.

12.

The bottle set forth in claim 11 wherein a ratio between diameters of the side portions and the end portions is 0.76.

13.

The bottle set forth in claim 1 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.

14.

The bottle set forth in claim 4 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.

15.

The bottle set forth in claim 11 wherein said elliptical cross section is smooth about its circumference without abrupt steps or surface discontinuities.