

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 September 2007 (13.09.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/102002 A3

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
B66C 1/10 (2006.01) *B66C 1/22* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/GB2007/000797
- (22) **International Filing Date:** 7 March 2007 (07.03.2007)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
0604569.4 7 March 2006 (07.03.2006) GB
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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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, 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, 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).

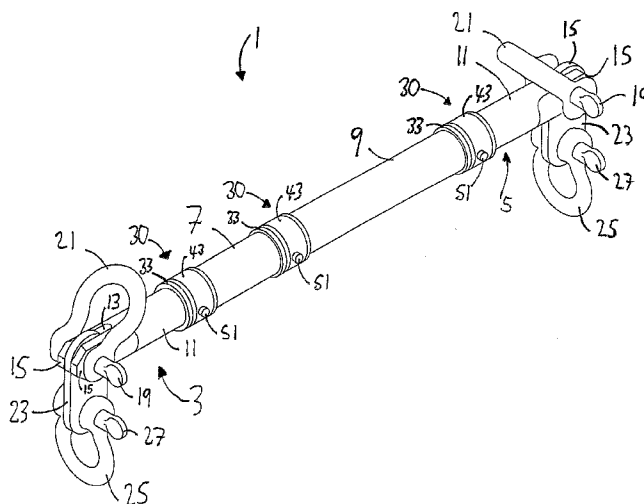
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

- (88) **Date of publication of the international search report:**
1 November 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) **Title:** A SPREADER ASSEMBLY



(57) **Abstract:** A collapsible spreader assembly (1) capable of being disassembled comprises at least two end members (3, 5), each of which comprises a lower load attachment point (25) for attachment to the load to be lifted, and an upper lifting attachment point (21) for attachment to a crane hook or the like, the spreader assembly (1) further comprising connection means for connecting the end members (3, 5) together, the connection means comprising a male spigot connector (31), and a female socket connector (41) operative to slidably receive the male spigot connector (31) in use, each connector (31, 41) being formed with an annular load carrying face (37, 47), the plane of each load carrying face (37, 47) being perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the assembled spreader such that, when the end members (3, 5) are connected together, the load carrying faces (37, 47) abut so as to carry the axial compression forces acting between the ends of the spreader in use.

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