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(71) Applicant: **PHILIP MORRIS PRODUCTS S.A.** [CH/CH]; Quai Jeanrenaud 3, CH-2000 Neuchâtel (CH).

(72) Inventors: **NIQUILLE, Steve**; Route de St-Saphorin 6, CH-1112 Echichens (CH). **CHANEZ, Patrick**; Route d'Yverdon-les-Bains 405, CH-1468 Cheyres (CH).

(74) Agent: **REDDIE & GROSE LLP**; 16 Theobalds Road, London, Greater London WC1X 8PL (GB).

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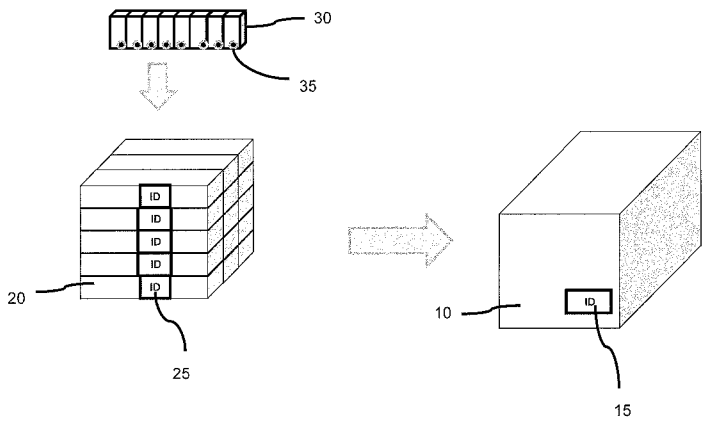
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STORAGE OF DATA FOR TRACKING MANUFACTURED ITEMS

Fig. 1



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for the generation and storage of data for manufactured items in a batch of manufactured items that reduces data storage requirements. The method may comprise the steps of: at a production line generating a unique identifier for each item, the unique identifier comprising production details and a counter value of an incremental counter; at a production line, associating each item with the corresponding unique identifier or an encrypted version of the unique identifier; reading at least some of the unique identifiers associated with items in the batch of the items to provide a list of read identifiers, wherein at least some counter values of the incremental counter are not in the list of read identifiers; generating a plurality of ranges of read identifiers, each range comprising a number of read identifiers having common production details and sequential counter values; and storing the plurality of ranges of read identifiers having common production details as a single data record in an electronic database, the single data record comprising the production details and an indication of each of the ranges of sequential counter values.

WO 2014/095740 A1