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Annex A

Singapore Patent Application No. 200007684-4

Our Ref : CG/FAA/PAT/8103412/SG
Title : A METHOD FOR PRODUCING A CUTTING PLATE FOR THE
CHIP-CUTTING MACHINING OF METALLIC TOOLS
Applicant : MAPAL WWS WERNER STIEF GMBH
Date : 3 January 2003

ARGUMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN THE IPER

In response to the conclusions in the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER), the applicant wishes to submit the following arguments:-

The Applicant notes that the International Examiner alleged that claims 6 and 7 lack novelty whilst claims 1-8 lack inventive step in light of the cited references.

1. Method claims 1 to 5

Claim 1 relates to a method for producing a cutting-plate for the machining of metal tools. This method is characterized in that, in a first step, a cutting-plate blank without a cutting-edge is produced. Said blank does not even have the future contour of the cutting-plate, and can therefore be used for a very wide variety of machining purposes—the desired shape not being produced until a subsequent, second step.

The method in Citation D2 (French patent application 2 703 610) lacks exactly this core of the method according to claim 1. If one looks at Figs. 2 and 3 of the French patent application, it will be apparent that already in a first step in the production of the cutting-plate, there is a cutting-edge (arête de coupe 9); in this regard, see also pages 4 and 5 of the description. No neutral blank is produced having a region whose contour is still undefined and only later given a cutting-edge adapted to a particular use.

In the French document, after the production of the cutting-plate, only the clearance angle (dépouille 11) is produced (page 5, line 5ff).

Citation D1 (European Patent Application EP 0 738 553 A1) also shows a method of producing a cutting-plate with a particular shape. Already in the first step, the cutting-plate has its final shape. It is merely necessary to grind the cutting-edge to give it the required sharpness.

Nowhere is there even the slightest indication of producing a neutral blank that does not yet have, in the region of the future cutting-edge, the contour that the future cutting-edge will have.

Nor does citation D3 (European Patent Application EP 0 718 414 A1) give any indication anywhere as to the production of a cutting-plate by first producing a cutting-plate blank that does not yet have the final contour.

It is even expressly stated, in column 5, lines 34, 35, that it is not necessary to further machine the segments 8 produced in the first step.

All of this shows, therefore, that the method according to claims 1 to 5 is novel—of which there is no question—and, moreover, is based on an inventive step, because the citations, D1 to D3, introduced into the proceedings, in no way describe a method of producing a cutting-plate blank that, in a first step, still has an undefined contour, i.e. does not yet show the line of the future cutting-edge.

2. Claims 6 to 8

From what has been said in section 1 above with regard to method-claims 1 to 5, it is readily apparent that nowhere do the three citations D1 to D3 describe a cutting-plate blank that has—in a region wherein the cutting-edge is subsequently arranged—a region whose contour is at first undefined. Rather, in the cutting-plates in these citations—produced in the first step—the cutting-edge that the cutting-plate will have is clearly recognizable right from the outset.

The subject-matter of claims 6 to 8 is therefore novel.

In accordance with the statements in section 1 above, they are also based on an inventive step.

In light of the attached amendments and the supporting arguments above, the applicant respectfully submits their belief that the all the claims of the present invention fulfils the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.