

A CONTAINER DEPOT AND A METHOD OF STORING A CONTAINER THEREIN

ABSTRACT

A container depot is disclosed. The container depot includes multiple container storage facilities. Each container storage facility includes a container storage space, and an overhead crane above the container storage space. The overhead crane has a spreader that is operable to position it at least substantially directly above a container pickup area adjacent the container storage space so that it can be lowered onto a container placed at the container pickup area to engage, lift and convey it to an allocated position in the container storage space. The container storage facility further includes a guide structure disposed above the container pickup area for guiding the spreader to restrict its lateral movement as it is being lowered onto the container at the container pickup area to engage the container. A method for storing a container in a storage space is also disclosed. The method includes placing the container at a container pickup area, moving a spreader of an overhead crane to be at least substantially directly above the container at the container pickup area, lowering the spreader while being guided by a guide structure to restrict its lateral movement onto the container to engage the container, and lifting the container and conveying it to an allocated position in the storage space.

Figure 4.