

"INSTALLATIONS COMPRISING ICE-BOXES FOR HOTEL ROOMS"

This invention relates to installations which comprise ice-boxes for hotel rooms.

5 The practice of providing hotel rooms with a mini-bar is now commonplace. Such mini-bars, constituted by a small ice-box which is sometimes accompanied by a non-refrigerated compartment, need their contents to be checked very regularly and to be restocked by the hotel staff which can be a nuisance to the hotel guests occupying
10 the rooms. On the management side, as the rooms are not continuously accessible to the staff when they are occupied, it is not possible for an employee to perform, in one routine circuit, the checking and restocking of all the installations for which he is responsible.

15 It has already been suggested, to overcome this difficulty, that a mini-bar should be rotatably mounted so that it can be turned to bring a door thereof opposite to an opening provided in the wall separating the room from a corridor of the hotel, thus enabling the responsible
20 employee to reach the mini-bar from the corridor.

Such installations, however, are relatively complicated and the operation thereof is not reliable.

The object of the present invention is to overcome the foregoing difficulties, and to enable a single
25 installation to serve two rooms. To this end an hotel installation in accordance with the invention comprises two

ice-boxes respectively serving two adjoining rooms served by a common corridor, wherein that part of a dividing wall between the rooms which abuts the corridor incorporates an internal enclosure which is accessible via respective apertures from both rooms and from the corridor, and a frame supporting the ice-boxes in head-to-foot relation is slidably arranged so as to be movable between a first position in which it is located completely within said enclosure and a second position in which it is located at least partially in the corridor, the arrangement being such that when the frame is in said first position a door of each ice-box is accessible only from its respective room via the aperture between that room and said enclosure and when the frame is in said second position both ice-boxes are accessible from the corridor.

The invention will now be further described with reference to the accompanying drawing which shows, by way of example, one embodiment of the invention. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, from the inside of an hotel room, of an installation comprising two ice-boxes;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of this installation, on the line II - II of Fig. 1 but to a larger scale;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the same installation, but from a corridor serving the room; and

Fig. 4 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of the

installation, on the line IV - IV of Fig. 3 but to a larger scale.

The installation illustrated is intended for the fitting out of two adjoining hotel rooms, designated generally by references 1 and 2 respectively, which are separated from each other by a dividing wall 3. These two rooms are separated from a corridor 4, by which they are both served, by a wall 5.

That part of the wall 3 which abuts the corridor 4 incorporates an enclosure in the form of a stationary chest 6 which is accessible at an opening provided in the

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wall 5, in line with the wall 3, this chest thus opening into the corridor 4. A movable frame 7 is located in the chest 6 and can move in the direction of the arrows 8 (Figs. 2 and 4), being suspended from a stationary rail 9 (Fig. 3) by means of an intermediate element 10 in which is engaged a rail 11 rigidly secured to the frame 7. This assembly effects telescopic displacement as a result of which the frame can move to an overhanging position with respect to the rail 9 and located almost entirely in the corridor 4 (Figs. 3 and 4). It occupies a similarly overhanging position, but at the opposite inner end of the rail 9, when in its normal position fully engaged in the chest 6.

The frame 7 carries, disposed one above the other and in head-to-foot arrangement, two ice-boxes 12 and 13 the doors of which are located on the side faces of the frame 7 so that one is presented to the room 1 and the other is presented to the room 2. These ice-boxes are of small size and are accompanied, respectively, by a non-refrigerated compartment 14 opening to the room 1 and by a non-refrigerated compartment 15 opening to the room 2. The side walls of the chest are provided, in each room, with an opening 16 exposing the door of one of the ice-boxes and the corresponding compartment when the movable frame 7 occupies the normal position shown in Figs. 1 and 2. These openings 16 are provided with lockable doors 17 one of which, i.e. that of the room 1, is shown in the drawing in the open position, and these doors enable the room access to the ice-boxes and to

the compartments to be blocked off. The door of one of the ice-boxes, designated by reference 18, is shown in Fig. 1 where it has been illustrated in the open position.

5 The chest 6 serves also as an air duct for the cooling of the refrigeration heat-exchange elements of the refrigerated ice-boxes and is provided, for this purpose, with openings 19 fitted with louvres.

10 When the movable frame 7 occupies a first or normal position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, in which it is located in the chest 6, the occupants of the rooms 1 and 2 can gain access to the ice-box 12 and compartment 14 as well as to the ice-box 13 and compartment 15, respectively.

15 When the contents of the ice-boxes and of the compartments have to be checked, and if required restocked, the hotel staff member concerned does not need to enter the rooms. It is in fact sufficient, while he is in the corridor, for him to draw out the frame 7 from the chest 6 to a second position located in the corridor 4 in which he is able to gain access to the two ice-boxes 12 and 13 and
20 to the two compartments 14 and 15. A front face 7a of the movable frame 7 is preferably provided with a lock to prevent a person who does not have the key from drawing out, from the corridor 4, the movable frame and thus gaining unauthorized access to the ice-boxes and to the
25 compartments.

The present arrangement is, at the same time, both very simple in construction and reliable in operation.

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CLAIMS:

1. An hotel installation comprising two ice-boxes respectively serving two adjoining rooms served by a common corridor, wherein that part of a dividing wall between the rooms which abuts the corridor incorporates an internal enclosure which is accessible via respective apertures from both rooms and from the corridor, and a frame supporting the ice-boxes in head-to-foot relation is slidably arranged so as to be movable between a first position in which it is located completely within said enclosure and a second position in which it is located at least partially in the corridor, the arrangement being such that when the frame is in said first position a door of each ice-box is accessible only from its respective room via the aperture between that room and said enclosure and when the frame is in said second position both ice-boxes are accessible from the corridor.

2. An installation according to claim 1, wherein each of said apertures between the rooms and the enclosure is provided with a door which can be locked, in the respective room, to prevent access to the corresponding ice-box.

3. An installation according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said frame is suspended from a stationary rail.



extending perpendicularly to a wall separating the rooms from the corridor.

4. An installation according to claim 3, wherein the frame is suspended from the stationary rail by means of an intermediate element permitting the frame, by telescopic displacement of the engaged suspension elements, to move to an overhanging position with respect to the rail when it occupies either one of said first and second positions.

5. An installation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the two ice-boxes are situated one above the other.

6. An hotel service installation, constructed and arranged substantially as herein particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

The text of the specification has been reproduced by photocopying the applicants original typescript. It may contain a few amendments which are difficult to read. The original typescript containing these amendments may be inspected on the premises of the Patent Office



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