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(54) Title: PROTECTION CIRCUIT FOR AN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE

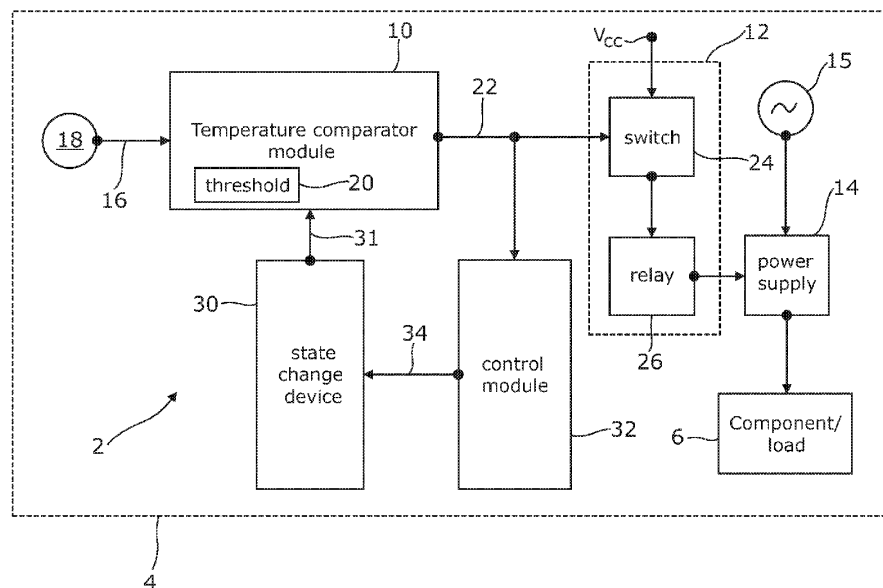


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A protection circuit for an electric appliance that is configured to control power supply to an associated electrical component of the appliance such as a heating device, lamp or motor in the event that unsafe conditions are detected such that continued power supply could be hazardous. The protection circuit comprises a first comparator module configured to compare an operating parameter input signal to a threshold value and to output a first control signal to a first switching circuit configured to control power flow to the associated electrical component. The first comparator module is configured to receive an enable/disable signal from a first state-change latching device, wherein the first state-change latching device is responsive to a state change of the first control signal from the first comparator module, in response to which the state-change latching device changes the enable/disable signal from an enable state to a disable state thereby to set the first control signal into an off state. Advantageously, the protection circuit provides a

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hardware solution for an electrical cut-out system as used in the appliance and as such the circuit does not make use of a conventional thermal fuse and, moreover, does not require the implementation of safety-critical software. The protection circuit of the invention therefore provides a particularly cost efficient and space efficient solution which is well suited to unconventional electrical appliances with smaller form factors.