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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/21508 (22) International Filing Date: 13 October 1998 (13.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 09/058,636 10 April 1998 (10.04.98) US (71) Applicant: MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (72) Inventors: BRACE, Thomas, J.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). FERGEN, James, B.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). KIEFFER, Michael, J.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). MCLEOD, Kathleen, M.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). ZAREMBO, Peter, J.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (74) Agents: OLSON, Peter, L. et al.; Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACTIVATING AND DEACTIVATING ELECTROMAGNETIC ARTICLE SURVEILLANCE MARKERS 		
(57) Abstract The present disclosure relates to an apparatus for activating and deactivating an electronic article surveillance marker carried by an article. The apparatus includes a housing having a platform for supporting the article. The apparatus also includes a first magnet positioned within the housing adapted for producing a magnetic field of sufficient strength to deactivate the marker. Additionally, the apparatus includes a translating mechanism for translating the first magnet between first and second positions along the platform. The electronic article surveillance marker is deactivated by placing the article onto the platform and translating the first magnet between the first and second positions. The first magnet can also be part of an alternating decaying array of magnets adapted for either activating or deactivating the electronic surveillance marker.		