[0025] The connection to the outside or inside surface of the inelastic portion of the top cover can be made with or without the elastically deformable portion being connected to the rim of the opening in the inelastic portion. In some forms of the invention, the elastically deformable portion is connected to the outside or inside surface of the inelastic portion and the elastically deformable portion extends across the opening of the inelastic portion without connection to the rim of the opening. In other forms of the invention, there is engagement between the elastically deformable portion and the rim of the opening, but the engagement is bearing or touching engagement only. This type of engagement can assist to secure the elastically deformable portion in place.

[0026] While the above discussion has referred to the option of the elastically deformable portion connecting to either the outside or inside surface of the inelastic portion of the top cover, the expectation is that the connection, if provided, will normally be made to the inside surface of the inelastic portion. In this arrangement, where the engagement between the elastically deformable portion and the rim of the opening is bearing or touching engagement only, the arrangement can be such that the elastically deformable portion can be connected to inside surface of the inelastic portion and part of that portion can extend into the opening in the inelastic portion and can bear against the facing edge of the rim of the opening.

[0027] The elastically deformable portion can be formed as part of a seal that is attached to the inside of the container lid and that seals against surfaces of the container bottom when the lid is in closed connection with the ~~base~~container bottom. The seal can, for example, seal against upper ends or facing edges of the walls of the container bottom as well as the upper ends or facing edges of any partition walls provided within the container bottom interior. The seal can include channels for sealing purposes into which upper ends of the walls of the container bottom and/or any partition walls extend when the lid is in closed connection with the ~~base~~container bottom.

[0028] The seal can be attached to the container lid in any suitable manner and can be attached by the same attachment arrangements described above in relation to the connection of the elastically deformable portion to the lid.

Claims

1. A food container, the food container having:

a container bottom, and

a container lid,

the container bottom having a base and walls upstanding from the base to define a container bottom interior,

the container lid having a top cover and side edges, the top cover overlying the base when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom,

the top cover including an elastically deformable portion and an inelastic portion, each of the elastically deformable portion and the inelastic portion overlying different portions of the base when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom, the inelastic portion comprising a substrate of inelastic material and an opening being formed in the substrate and the elastically deformable portion extending across the opening,

the elastically deformable portion facilitating accommodation of an item within the container bottom interior that rests on the portion of the base that underlies the elastically deformable portion and that extends into contact with the elastically deformable portion as the container lid is shifted into closed connection with the container bottom, by the elastically deformable portion deforming elastically outwardly away from the base in contact with the item.

2. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 1, the container bottom including at least one partition wall within the container bottom interior to form at least two compartments and whereby the elastically deformable portion overlies one of the compartments.

3. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 2, wherein the elastically deformable portion overlies two or more of the at least two compartments.

4. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 3, wherein the elastically deformable portion is a first elastically deformable portion that overlies one of the at least two

compartments and a second elastically deformable portion overlies another of the at least two compartments.

5. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 4, the first and second elastically deformable portions being separated by an inelastic portion.

6. The food ~~A~~ container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, the elastically deformable portion and the inelastic portion of the top cover being formed integrally, such as by the top cover being formed by molding.

7. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 6, the elastically deformable portion of the top cover having a wall thickness which is thinner than the wall thickness of the inelastic portion.

8. The food ~~A~~ container according to any one of claims 1 to 7, the elastically deformable portion having a generally corrugated cross-section in the absence of contact with an item within the container bottom interior.

9. The food ~~A~~ container according to any one of claims 1 to 7, the ~~inelastic portion~~elastically deformable portion having a generally planar portion in the absence of contact with an item within the container bottom interior.

10. The food ~~A~~ container according to any one of claims 1 to 9, the opening in the substrate of inelastic material being a circular opening.

11. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 10, the opening having a rim and the elastically deformable portion being attached to the rim.

12. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 10, the opening having a rim and the elastically deformable portion being attached to the rim and to an inside surface of the top cover spaced from the rim.

13. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 12, the inside surface of the top cover to which the elastically deformable portion is attached comprising at least in part, a channel into which a portion of the elastically deformable portion is received and secured.

14. The food ~~A~~ container according to any one of claims 1 to 13, the elastically deformable portion being formed as part of a seal that is attached to the inside of the container lid and that seals against surfaces of the container bottom when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

15. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 14, the seal sealing against upper ends of the walls of the container bottom when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

16. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 15, the seal including channels into which upper ends of the walls of the container bottom extend when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

17. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 14 when dependent on claim 2, the seal sealing against upper ends of the at least one partition wall when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

18. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 17, the seal including channels into which upper ends of the at least one partition wall extend when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

19. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 14 when dependent on claim 2, the seal sealing against upper ends of the walls of the container bottom and with upper ends of the at least one partition wall when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

20. The food ~~A~~ container according to claim 19, the seal including channels into which upper ends of the walls of the container bottom and upper ends of the at least one partition wall extend when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom.

21. A food container, the food container having:

a container bottom, and

a container lid,

the container bottom having a base and walls upstanding from the base to define a container bottom interior,

the container lid having a top cover and side edges, the top cover overlying the base when the container lid is in closed connection with the container bottom,

the top cover including an elastically deformable portion and an inelastic portion, each of the elastically deformable portion and the inelastic portion overlying different portions of the base, the inelastic portion extending from the side edges,

the elastically deformable portion facilitating accommodation of an item within the container bottom interior that rests on the portion of the base that underlies the elastically deformable portion and that extends into contact with the elastically deformable portion as the container lid is shifted into closed connection with the container bottom, by the elastically deformable portion deforming elastically outwardly away from the base relative to the inelastic portion in contact with the item as the inelastic portion moves toward the base.