said at least one opening, seen in circumferential direction, for coupling of a connecting device thereto. These coupling elements are preferably placed and/or designed such that they define a position of a connecting device relative to the container such that a connecting element of the connecting device is positioned correctly relative to the at least one opening.

Another aspect of the invention can be characterised by a method for forming a container, wherein a bag-in-container is blow moulded integrally from at least two super positioned preforms or an integral, multilayer preform, such that an outer container and an inner container or bag are formed. Prior to or after blow moulding the container a closure ring is spin welded onto the inner and outer container, closing off a space between the inner and outer containers. Alternatively or additionally the two preforms or containers can be welded, especially spin welded or otherwise connected to each other at the neck regions, closing off the space between the containers or preforms. At least one opening is provided in a peripheral wall of a neck region of one of the containers, preferably the outer container, opening into said space, for introducing gas under pressure into said space and compressing the inner container within the outer container. The inner container is filled with beverage and a valve is mounted in or on an opening in said ring, opening into said inner container.

In view of the above, in accordance with a first aspect of the invention, there is provided connecting device for connecting at least a gas line to a bag-in-container type of container, comprising a first part and a second part, movably connected to said first part, wherein at least one of the first and/or second part is provided with a coupling opening with coupling elements for connecting the device to a part of a bag-in-container type container extending inside said coupling opening, wherein the connecting device is further provided with at least one gas connecting element for introducing gas under pressure into the bag-in-container type container, said at least one gas connecting element movable between an extended position in which the gas connecting element extends at least partly inside

said coupling opening and a retracted position in which the gas connecting element extends less or not into said coupling opening, the connecting device further comprising a mechanism for moving the at least one gas connecting element between the extended position and the retracted position by relative movement of the first and second parts.

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention, there is provided tapping assembly for a beverage, comprising a connecting device as described herein and a BIC type container, comprising a first and second container, wherein the first container has a neck portion and the second container is suspended in the first container, from the neck portion thereof, wherein the neck portion of the container is provided with at least one opening in a side wall thereof or in a closing ring mounted thereon, opening into a space between the first and second containers, wherein the connecting device is connected or connectable to the neck portion, wherein the at least one gas connecting element of the connecting device is designed for connecting to the at least one opening when in the extended position.

In accordance with a third aspect of the invention, there is provided container of a bag-in-container type, especially for use with a connecting device as described herein or in an assembly as described herein, wherein a neck region of an outer container is provided with at least one opening extending substantially radially there through, into a space between the outer container and an inner container adjacent thereto, wherein the neck region is provided with coupling elements, preferably at opposite sides of said at least one opening, seen in circumferential direction, for coupling of a connecting device thereto.

In accordance with a fourth aspect of the invention, there is provided set of preforms for forming a container as described herein, preferably interconnected by a ring mounted onto free ends of said preforms.

In accordance with a fifth aspect of the invention, there is provided method for connecting a gas supply to a BIC using a connecting device according to the present disclosure, wherein the connecting device is mounted onto a neck region of the BIC and pressurised gas is entered into a

space between an inner and outer container of the BIC through at least one opening extending through a wall part of the neck region of the BIC, preferably in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the BIC.

Preforms and preform assemblies will be discussed and disclosed too for forming a container.

In order to further elucidate the present invention, embodiments thereof shall be disclosed and discussed hereafter, with reference to the drawings. Therein shows:

Fig. 1 in side view part of an assembly according to the disclosure, showing a neck region of a container with a connecting device, in a first embodiment;

Claims

1. Connecting device for connecting at least a gas line to a bag-in-container type of container, comprising a first part and a second part, movably connected to said first part, wherein at least one of the first and/or second part is provided with a coupling opening with coupling elements for connecting the device to a part of a bag-in-container type container extending inside said coupling opening, wherein the connecting device is further provided with at least one gas connecting element for introducing gas under pressure into the bag-in-container type container, said at least one gas connecting element movable between an extended position in which the gas connecting element extends at least partly inside said coupling opening and a retracted position in which the gas connecting element extends less or not into said coupling opening, the connecting device further comprising a mechanism for moving the at least one gas connecting element between the extended position and the retracted position by relative movement of the first and second parts.

2. Connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the coupling opening extends through the connecting device, wherein a connector is provided, preferably releasably provided, in one end of the coupling opening, wherein the connector comprises a coupler for opening a valve of a container to which the connecting device is connected and a dispense line extending from said connector.

3. Connecting device according to claim 2, wherein the coupling opening extends through the connecting device, wherein in and/or through said opening the dispense line extends, which at one end is connected to a dispense adaptor for connecting to and opening the valve of a container to which the connecting device is connected.

4. Connecting device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the opposite end of the dispense line is be provided with a valve, especially an in-line valve.

5. Connecting device according to any one of claims 3 - 4, wherein the dispense line and/or the dispense adapter are disposable.

6. Connecting device according to any one of the previous claims, wherein a gas inlet line is coupled to the at least one gas connecting element, for introducing gas under pressure into the space between inner and outer containers of a bag-in-container type container to which the connecting device is connected.

7. Connecting device according to any one of claims 1 - 6, wherein the connecting device comprises an overpressure release connector, in a connecting line for the source of pressurised gas or for connecting to a first opening or to a second opening provided in a neck region of the container, wherein preferably the first and such second opening are positioned radially opposite each other.

8. Connecting device according to any one of claims 1 - 7, wherein the first and second part are rotatable relative to each other, preferably around an axis of the coupling opening, wherein the said relative rotation of the parts closes off said coupling elements of the coupling device, such that complementary coupling elements of a container to which the connecting device is coupled are locked within said coupling elements of the connecting device, and preferably simultaneously forces the at least one gas connecting element to the extended position.

9. Connecting device according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the at least one opening in the connecting device has a longitudinal axis, extending in a direction substantially parallel to and preferably coinciding with an insertion direction for a neck portion of a container, wherein the at least one gas connecting element has a direction of movement for movement of the at least one gas connecting element between

the extended position and the retracted position, which direction is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

10. Connecting device according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the opening can surround a neck of a BIC container that is inserted into the opening, such that the connecting device can only be placed onto ~~a~~ the BIC container by movement substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said opening.

11. Tapping assembly for a beverage, comprising a connecting device according to any one of the previous claims and a BIC type container, comprising a first and second container, wherein the first container has a neck portion and the second container is suspended in the first container, from the neck portion thereof, wherein the neck portion of the container is provided with at least one opening in a side wall thereof or in a closure ring mounted thereon, opening into a space between the first and second containers, wherein the connecting device is connected or connectable to the neck portion, wherein the at least one gas connecting element of the connecting device is designed for connecting to the at least one opening when in the extended position.

12. Tapping assembly according to claim 11, wherein the at least one opening opens into said space in a substantially radial direction, perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the neck region, and wherein the gas connecting element connects to said at least one opening in substantially the same radial direction, and wherein preferably the gas connecting element is movable relative to the opening, preferably in said substantially radial direction, between the retracted position forming a release position spaced apart from the opening and the extended position forming a connecting position gastight connecting to said opening.

13. Method for connecting a gas supply to a BIC using a connecting device according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the connecting device is mounted onto a neck region of the BIC and pressurised gas is entered into a

space between an inner and outer container of the BIC through at least one opening extending through a wall part of the neck region of the BIC, preferably in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the BIC.