

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 March 2008 (13.03.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/028265 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
F16L 33/035 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/BR2007/000228

(22) International Filing Date:
4 September 2007 (04.09.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PI0604028-4 4 September 2006 (04.09.2006) BR

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
WHIRLPOOL S.A [BR/BR]; Avenida das Nações Unidas, 12.995 - 32º andar - Brooklin Novo, 04578-000 São Paulo -sp (BR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LINK, Rodrigo** [BR/BR]; Rua das Andorinhas, 855 - ap. 304, 89220-021 Joinville -sc (BR). **HILLE, Claudio Roberto** [BR/BR]; Rua Fides Huhn, 125, 89217-170 Joinville - Sc (BR).

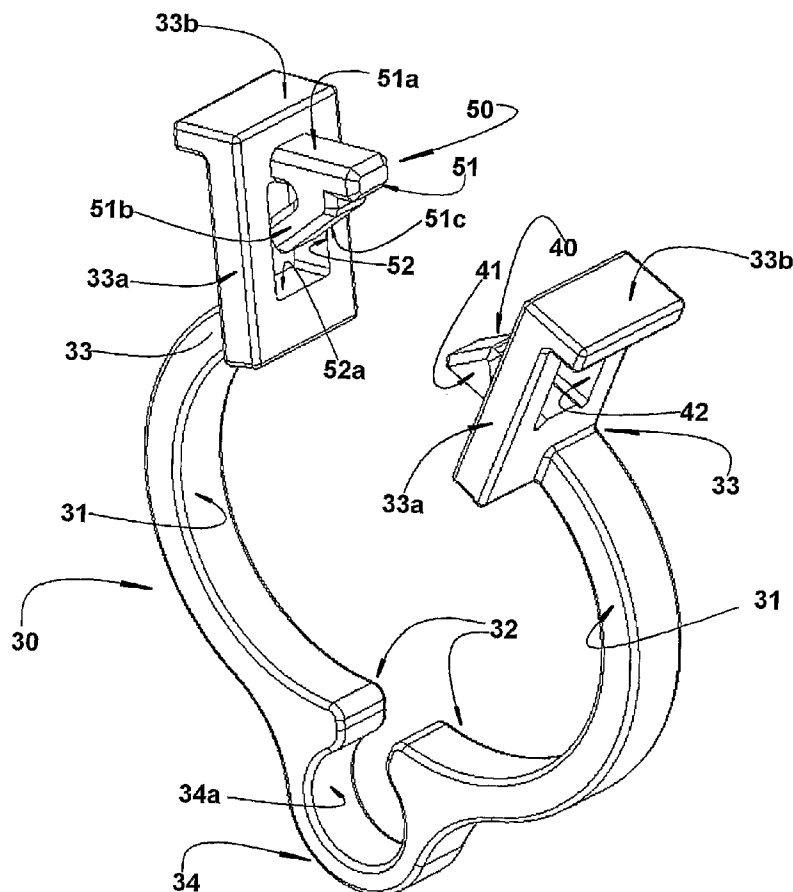
(74) Agents: **ARNAUD, Antonio M.P.** et al.; Rua José Bonifácio, 93 - 9th floor, 01003-901 São Paulo - Sp (BR).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CLAMP FOR TUBULAR CONNECTIONS IN SMALL REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: The invention refers to a clamp for tubular connections in small refrigeration systems of the type which comprises a compressor operatively associated with a refrigeration circuit containing at least one working fluid (FT), said refrigeration system comprising a tubular connecting element (10), in an elastically deformable material, to be attached around a tubular element (20) that conducts working fluid (FT). The clamp (30) comprises two semi -annular portions (31) having, each one, a first end (32) and a second end (33), said first ends (32) being coupled to each other and the second end (33) of one of said semi-annular portions (31) being provided with a locking means (40) to be engaged in a lock receiving means (50) provided in the second end (33) of the other semi-annular portion (31), the coupling between the two first ends (32) being made so as to allow said two semi -annular portions (31) to be displaced between an open position, allowing to place the clamp (30) around the tubular connecting element (10) and a closed position, with the locking means (40) retained in the lock receiving means (50).



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

24 April 2008