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(54) Title: VALVE DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHODS OF SELECTIVELY COMMUNICATING BETWEEN AN INTERIOR AND AN EXTERIOR OF A TUBULAR STRING

(57) Abstract: A valve device and associated methods of selectively communicating between an interior and an exterior of a tubular string. A valve device includes an openable and closable flow path for selectively permitting and preventing flow between an interior and exterior of the valve device, and a lock assembly which prevents the flow path from being opened greater than a predetermined number of times. A method of testing at least one annular seal in an annulus formed between a tubular string and a wellbore wall includes the steps of: sealingly engaging the annular seal to thereby prevent flow through the annulus across the annular seal; and applying a pressure differential across the annular seal to thereby test the annular seal, the pressure differential being applied via a valve device interconnected in the tubular string.

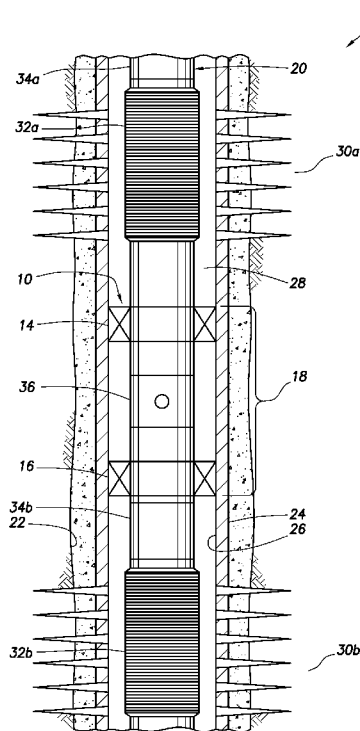


FIG. 1



MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM,
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