

Sealing Device

Abstract of the Disclosure

An apparatus and associated method for sealing a bag enclosure around a work piece. The apparatus comprises a frame defining a reference surface adapted for supporting the bag and the work piece, wherein the bag is disposed around the work piece and open on a side. A sealing head is supported by the frame and moveable between a retracted position and an engaged position, whereat the engaged position the sealing head is adjacent the open portion of the bag. A conduit is supported by the frame and comprises a distal end insertable into the open side of the bag in the engaged position of the sealing head. A negative pressure source is fluidly connected to the conduit to impart a negative pressure to the distal end, drawing air out of the bag. A stretching member is supported by the frame so as to be insertable into an open end of the bag in the engaged position of the sealing head, and is moveable to stretch the open end of the bag taut. A clamping member is supported by the sealing head and is moveable between an open position and a clamped position and adaptively receivingly engaging the open side of the bag in the engaged position of the sealing head. A closure member is supported by the clamping member and is adapted for sealingly joining the open side of the bag to retain the negative pressure therein.

Figure 1



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