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(54) Title: A SKIDDING SYSTEM AND A METHOD OF OPERATING THE SKIDDING SYSTEM

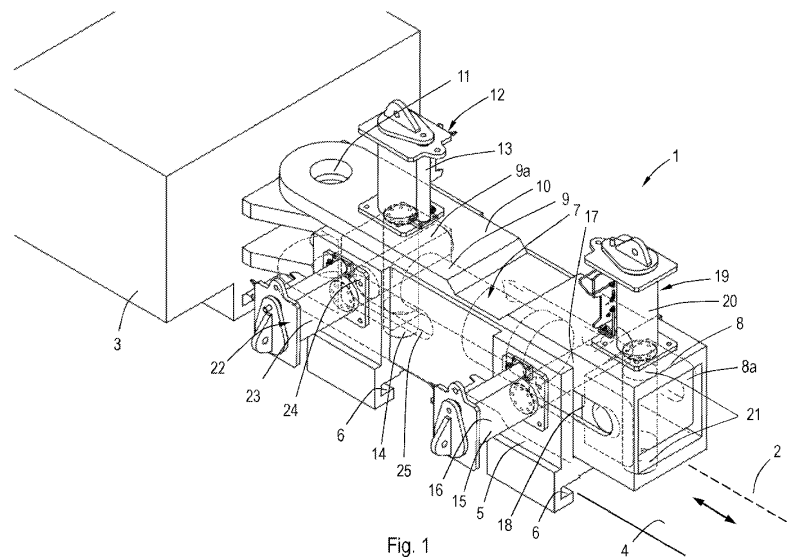


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A skidding system (1) for skidding a heavy load (3) over a deck (2) of a vessel comprises a skid shoe (5) guided on a skid rail (4) and a hydraulic cylinder (4) to cooperate with the skid shoe (5) and the load (3) to be displaced. The hydraulic cylinder (4) comprises a cylinder body (8) and a piston rod (9) that is extendable with respect to the cylinder body (8) by hydraulic power so as to displace the load (3) with respect to the skid rail (4). The skidding system further comprises a first releasable coupling (12) for coupling the piston rod (9) to the load (3) to be displaced with respect to the skid rail (4), a second releasable coupling (15) for coupling the cylinder body (8) to the skid shoe (5), a third releasable coupling (19) for coupling the cylinder body (8) to the load to be displaced with respect to the skid rail (4) and a fourth coupling (22) for coupling the piston rod (9) to the skid shoe (5).

[Continued on next page]

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