CLAIMS

1. A split valve assembly comprising two valve portions complementarily shaped such that the first can sealingly engage with and co-operate with the second to allow the movement of material therethrough, each valve portion comprising a housing, a valve seat and a valve closure member moveable between a first position in which the valve closure member is displaced from the valve seat and the valve is open, and a second position in which the valve closure member co-operates with the valve seat and the valve is closed, in which the assembly has a first configuration in which the first and second valve portions engage with one another, the valve closure members being closed, and a second configuration in which the two valve portions are disengaged from one another, the first valve portion having locking means moveable relative to the second valve portion to selectively lock and unlock the two valve portions together, the locking means received by the second valve portion which comprises a shim.

2. A split valve assembly according to Claim 1, in which the locking means may comprise a locking pair, one member of which is moveable relative to the other and capable of selectively engaging with the other member to lock and unlock portions together.

3. A split valve assembly according to Claim 2, in which the locking pair may comprise a male and female member complementarily shaped to one another.

4. A split valve assembly according to Claim 3, in which the male member is preferably moveable relative to the female member.

5. A split valve assembly according to Claim 4, in which the male member is capable of translational movement.

6. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which, the male member comprises a pin and the female member comprises a complementarily shaped blind bore for receiving the male member.

7. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the male member is preferably disposed in the first, active valve portion and the female in the second, passive valve portion.

8. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim receives the pin and is located in the second valve portion.

9. A split valve assembly according to Claim 8, in which the shim is releasably secured in the second valve portion.

10. A split valve assembly according to Claim 9, in which the means for releasably securing the shim to the second valve portion comprises fastening means.

11. A split valve assembly according to Claim 10, in which the fastening means is a screw.

12. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim is replaceable.

13. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim is manufactured from a different material to that of the male member.

14. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim comprises a base and a wedge portion.

15. A split valve assembly according to Claim 14, in which the wedge portion is orientated such that the tapered end is proximal to the bore opening.

16. A split valve assembly according to Claim 15, in which the base portion of the shim comprises an aperture through which securing means may pass to secure the shim in place.

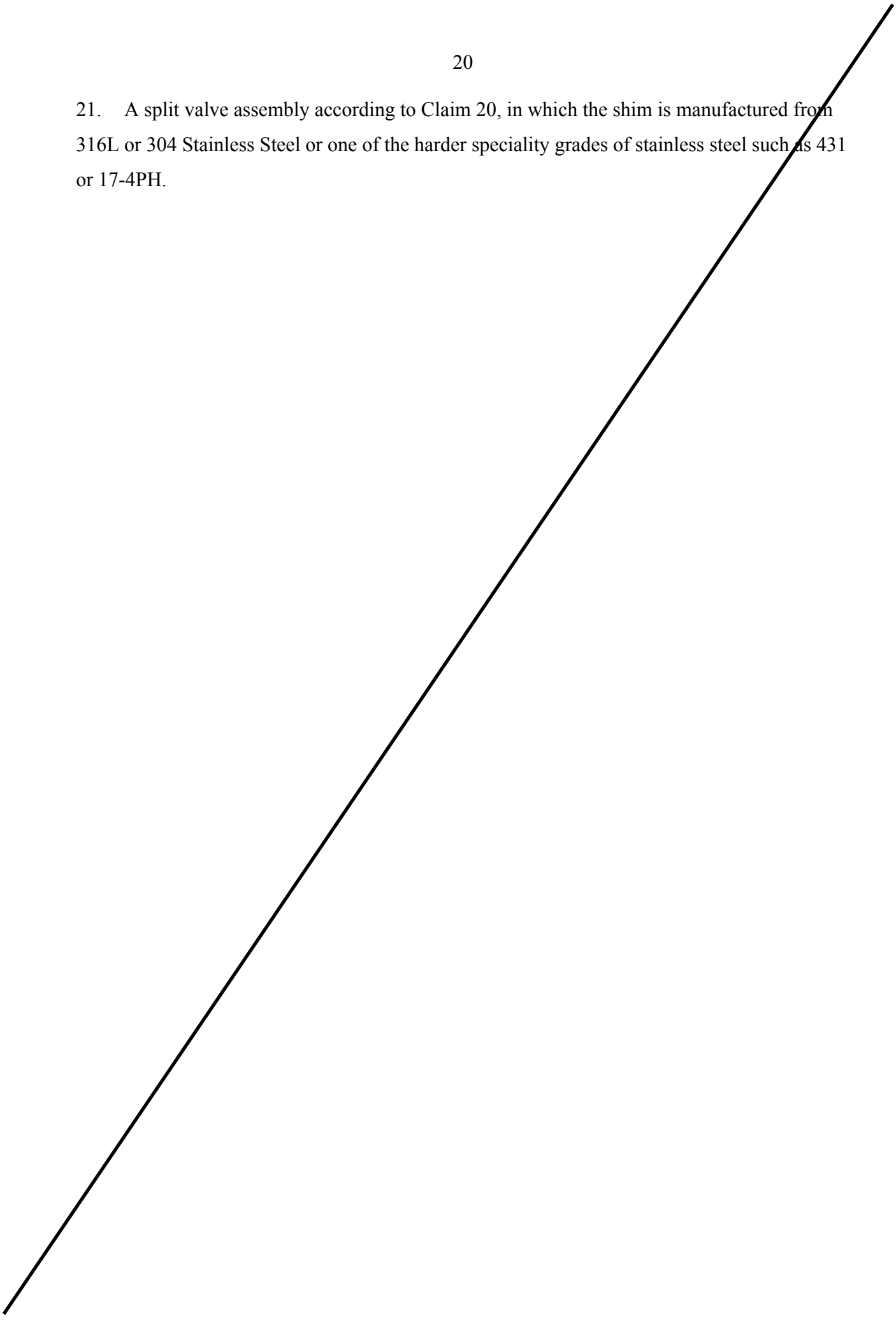
17. A split valve assembly according to Claim 16, in which the pin and wedge portion of the shim are complimentarily shaped.

18. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the valve assembly is a split butterfly valve, split ball valve or any other split valve.

19. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the valve portions are manufactured from 316L and 304 Stainless Steel, Alloy 22 and C276 Nickel alloys.

20. A split valve assembly according to Claim 19, in which the Locking Pins are manufactured from Aluminium Bronze, Phosphar Brinze, other Bronze grades, hard speciality grades of stainless steel such as 431 and 17-4PH.

21. A split valve assembly according to Claim 20, in which the shim is manufactured from 316L or 304 Stainless Steel or one of the harder speciality grades of stainless steel such as 431 or 17-4PH.



CLAIMS

1. A split valve assembly comprising two valve portions complementarily shaped such that the first can sealingly engage with and co-operate with the second to allow the movement of material therethrough, each valve portion comprising a housing, a valve seat and a valve closure member moveable between a first position in which the valve closure member is displaced from the valve seat and the valve is open, and a second position in which the valve closure member co-operates with the valve seat and the valve is closed, in which the assembly has a first configuration in which the first and second valve portions engage with one another, the valve closure members being closed, and a second configuration in which the two valve portions are disengaged from one another, the first valve portion having locking means moveable relative to the second valve portion to selectively lock and unlock the two valve portions together, the locking means received by the second valve portion which comprises a shim.

2. A split valve assembly according to Claim 1, in which the locking means may comprise a locking pair, one member of which is moveable relative to the other and capable of selectively engaging with the other member to lock and unlock portions together.

3. A split valve assembly according to Claim 2, in which the locking pair may comprise a male and female member complementarily shaped to one another.

4. A split valve assembly according to Claim 3, in which the male member is preferably moveable relative to the female member.

5. A split valve assembly according to Claim 4, in which the male member is capable of translational movement.

6. A split valve assembly according to Claim 3, 4 or 5, in which the male member comprises a pin and the female member comprises a complementarily shaped blind bore for receiving the male member.

7. A split valve assembly according to any of Claims 3 to 6, in which the male member is preferably disposed in the first, active valve portion and the female in the second, passive valve portion.

8. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim receives a pin and is located in the second valve portion.

9. A split valve assembly according to Claim 8, in which the shim is releasably secured in the second valve portion.

10. A split valve assembly according to Claim 9, in which the means for releasably securing the shim to the second valve portion comprises fastening means.

11. A split valve assembly according to Claim 10, in which the fastening means is a screw.

12. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim is replaceable.

13. A split valve assembly according to any of Claims 3 to 12, in which the shim is manufactured from a different material to that of the male member.

14. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the shim comprises a base and a wedge portion.

15. A split valve assembly according to Claim 14, in which the wedge portion is orientated such that the tapered end is proximal to the opening of the female member.

16. A split valve assembly according to Claim 15, in which the base portion of the shim comprises an aperture through which securing means may pass to secure the shim in place.

17. A split valve assembly according to Claim 16, in which the male member comprises a pin and in which the pin and wedge portion of the shim are complimentarily shaped.

18. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the valve assembly is a split butterfly valve, split ball valve or any other split valve.

19. A split valve assembly according to any preceding claim, in which the valve portions are manufactured from 316L and 304 Stainless Steel, Alloy 22 and C276 Nickel alloys.

20. A split valve assembly according to Claim 19, in which one member of the locking means is manufactured from Aluminium Bronze, Phosphor Bronze, other Bronze grades, hard speciality grades of stainless steel such as 431 and 17-4PH.

21. A split valve assembly according to Claim 20, in which the shim is manufactured from 316L or 304 Stainless Steel or one of the harder speciality grades of stainless steel such as 431 or 17-4PH.