Claims

1. A ~~metal~~ container comprising: ~~body for use with a releasable closure containing an annular layer of sealing material;~~
a metal container body, the body comprising a base and a generally cylindrical side wall~~,~~; wherein the top edge of the cylindrical side wall is rolled over to form a hollow annular bead surrounding the upper open end of the container body~~;~~, and wherein a discontinuity is formed in the bead in the form of one or more discrete depressions and/or one or more discrete protrusions~~.~~;
and a
~~2. A metal container body as claimed in Claim 1 in combination with~~ a releasable closure formed with an end wall and a depending skirt, ~~and characterised by~~
having an annular layer of stiff sealing material provided on the inside of the end wall adjacent the skirt; wherein, when the closure is pressed onto the container body, the annular bead engages the annular layer of stiff sealing material and some of that sealing material extends into the one or more depressions and/or around the one or more protrusions;
and a partial vacuum within the container body so that the container body and the closure are held together by a pressure differential.

~~3~~2. The container~~combination~~ of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the annular sealing material is formed from a solid (non-blown/non-foamed) material which takes a permanent set when cured and cooled.

~~4~~3. The ~~combination~~container of Claim ~~2~~1 or Claim ~~3~~2, wherein the container body is formed with an annular bulge below the annular bead to protect the closure skirt from lateral impact.

~~5~~4. The container ~~or combination~~ as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the diameter of the annular bead is about 1.5 to 2mm.

~~6~~5. The container ~~or combination~~ as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the discontinuity is formed as one or more notches in the bead.

~~7~~6. The container ~~or combination~~ of Claim ~~6~~5, wherein the depth of each notch is about 0.2 to 0.5mm.

~~8~~7. The container ~~or combination~~ as claimed in any preceding claim which the circumferential length of the notch is about twice the diameter of the annular bead.

~~9~~8. The container ~~or combination~~ as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the container side wall is formed from a sheet of metal rolled into a cylinder and welded; and wherein the base of the cylinder is seamed onto the side wall.

~~10. The combination as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 9, wherein no mechanical engagement means are provided for making a seal between the closure and the container body.~~

~~11~~9. The container ~~or combination~~ as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the container has profiling in its cylindrical wall to provide at least 0.5 bar of panelling performance.