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(54) Title: PARCELS COMPRISING AT LEAST TWO STACKS OF UNITS OF GOODS; MEANS, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING SAID PARCELS

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to parcels comprising at least one pair of stacks (A, B) of units of goods surrounded by a self clamping load sling, means therefor and method and apparatus for its preparation. The sling is in the form of a closed loop of a belt (2) having a width substantially equal to the transverse width of said stacks (A, B) and the central loop (14) is gathered together to form a lifting eye (15) and extending through a central opening in the upper part of the belt (2). The belt ends overlap and are secured permanently together by sewing, gluing, hot melt etc. The parcels can be formed by forming a pre–defined length of the belt (2) which is formed by pulling the belt (2) over a pair of rods (4), being spaced apart and having a vertically movable rod (5) placed in between, and over a rod (8b) fastened to a vertically movable plate (8) and then above a second pair of rods (6) having a vertically movable rod (7) in between. The end of the belt (2) is then fastened in a clamping device (3) whereupon the rods (5 and 7) are moved downwards against the belt (2) and the plate (8) is moved downwards such that the rod (8a) presses the belt (2) downwards while roll assemblies (10a, 10b) are moved up against the belt (2) until the belt (2) rests thereupon and the belt supply (1) is locked as the pre–defined length of the belt (2) has been pulled out. The apparatus may comprise a device for pleating the belt (2) and encircling the pleated part (27) with a sleeve (22). Said means constitutes a prefabricated loop formed belt (2) comprising a pleated part whose central part (27) is surrounded by a sleeve (22) to keep the pleats permanently together.

