



- (51) International Patent Classification:  
**B65G 11/00** (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2012/039819
- (22) International Filing Date:  
29 May 2012 (29.05.2012)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
61/491,226 29 May 2011 (29.05.2011) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **GALA INDUSTRIES, INC.** [US/US]; 181 Pauley Street, Eagle Rock, VA 24085 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PATTON, Damon, M.** [US/US]; 3709 Oliver Road, Roanoke, VA 24012 (US). **BARR, Jason** [US/US]; 31 Mountain Pass Road, Blue Ridge, VA 24422 (US). **BENOIT, George, N.** [US/US]; 704 McCormick Boulevard, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 (US). **MARTIN, Wayne, J.** [US/US]; 159 Red Horse Lane, Buchanan, VA 24066 (US).
- (74) Agents: **JENKINS, Jihan, A., R.** et al.; Troutman Sanders LLP, Bank Of America Plaza, 600 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 5200, Atlanta, GA 30308-2216 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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- (54) Title: VALVE DEVICES, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS FOR CONTROLLING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

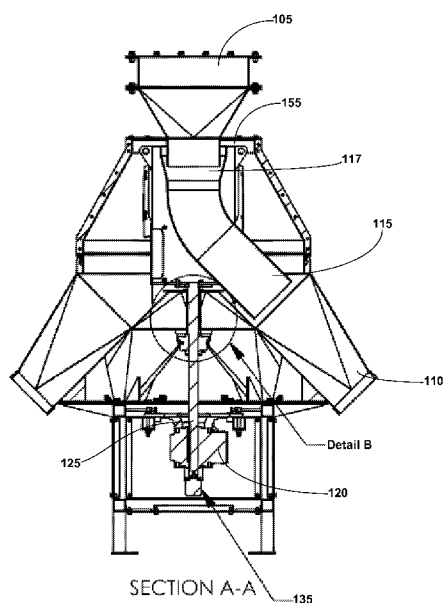


Figure 1A

(57) Abstract: The various embodiments of the present invention are directed to valve devices, systems, and methods for controlling the distribution of materials to multiple locations. The improved valve devices, materials distribution systems, and materials distribution methods disclosed herein are particularly suitable for use in applications where the materials being distributed are, for example but not limited to, non-gaseous fluid materials (e.g., raw liquids, solutions, slurries, colloids, suspensions, and the like) and solid materials having some level of tackiness, moisture content, or like property. The valves, systems, and methods disclosed herein can be operated without having to stop the flow of materials therethrough in order to change the position of the valve from one outlet to another. Further, the valves and systems disclosed herein have few directional changes, therefore there are few, if any, points within the system where the material can get stuck and/or lodged.



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**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*