



(43) International Publication Date
17 October 2013 (17.10.2013)

- (51) International Patent Classification:
B63C 7/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2013/050874
- (22) International Filing Date:
3 April 2013 (03.04.2013)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
1206319.4 10 April 2012 (10.04.2012) GB
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(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, BN, 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, PA, 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).

Published:

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

(54) Title: RIGHTING DEVICE FOR A WATER VESSEL

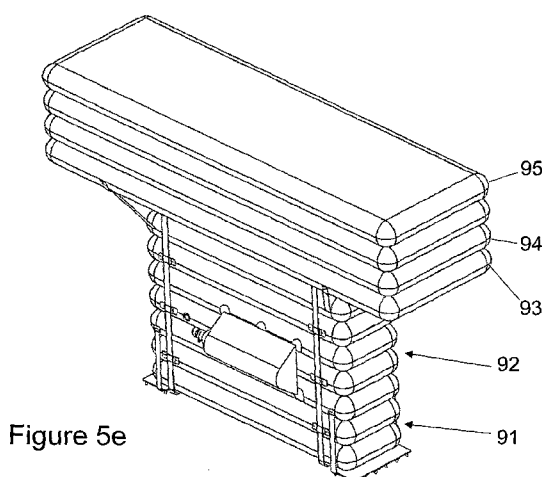


Figure 5e

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a device for righting a boat or other water vessel following a capsizing. The device (50) comprises an inflatable body (51) which can be stowed in a collapsed state when un-inflated. A source of compressed gas (78, 80) is provided to inflate the body following a capsizing. The inflatable body has a flexible skin which forms at least first and second inflatable chambers (91, 95). A valve arrangement is provided which causes the chambers to be inflated in a predetermined sequence. Specifically, the first chamber is inflated before the second. The first chamber is provided with means for securely mounting it upon the vessel. The second chamber is coupled to the first, to be supported by the first chamber when the device is deployed. Due to its buoyancy when submerged, the second chamber is able to apply a righting moment to the vessel. The first chamber serves to transmit this moment to the vessel. The staged inflation of the body alleviates its natural tendency to "pop up" to the surface before it is adequately inflated.



WO 2013/153363 A1