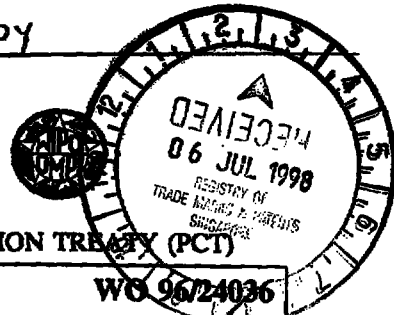


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(54) Title: SEAL INTEGRITY EVALUATION METHOD

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method for testing for leaks in sealed containers. The method comprises: (a) inserting a first electrode into a sealed container containing an electrolyte product composition, wherein the first electrode is inserted into the sealed container in a manner such that it is at least partially immersed in the electrolyte product composition; (b) immersing the sealed container into an electrolyte bath solution contained in a vessel, wherein the electrolyte bath solution is in direct contact with a second electrode, and wherein the sealed container is immersed into the electrolyte bath solution in a manner such that the seal of the sealed container is completely immersed in the electrolyte bath solution, the interior seal surface of the sealed container is completely submerged in the electrolyte product composition contained in the sealed container, and the first electrode is not in direct contact with the electrolyte bath solution; (c) connecting the first electrode and the second electrode to either a source of direct electric current or a conductivity measuring device; and (d) measuring the electric current flow or conductivity from one electrode to the other, wherein the sealed container is not leaking if there is no electric current flowing or conductivity between the two electrodes, and the sealed container is leaking if there is electric current flowing or conductivity between the two electrodes. The present invention further relates to an apparatus capable of detecting seal leaks in this manner.

