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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : D06F 23/00, 37/20, 37/22, 37/24, 49/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/39382 (43) International Publication Date: 6 July 2000 (06.07.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/NZ99/00223 (22) International Filing Date: 21 December 1999 (21.12.99) (30) Priority Data: 333573 23 December 1998 (23.12.98) NZ (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FISHER & PAYKEL LIMITED [NZ/NZ]; 78 Springs Road, East Tamaki, Auckland (NZ). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COLLEUTT, Gregory, Raymond [NZ/NZ]; 95A Crawford Avenue, Mangere Bridge, Auckland (NZ). RHODES, David, Charles [NZ/NZ]; 168 Penrose Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland (NZ). (74) Agents: CALHOUN, Douglas, C. et al.; A J Park & Son, 6th floor, Huddart Parker Building, Post Office Square, P.O. Box 949, Wellington 6015 (NZ).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.

(54) Title: A LAUNDRY APPLIANCE WITH LOAD BALANCING SYSTEM**(57) Abstract**

A laundry appliance comprising a perforated rotatable drum (11) for dehydrating a clothes load, a substantially rigid, free standing drum support means supporting the drum (11) rotatably but non-translatably in relation to a support surface, driving means (39, 40) for rotating the drum (11) at speed thereby dehydrating the load, and a system for compensating for imbalances of the drum (11) and any load carried therein during dehydration of the load.

