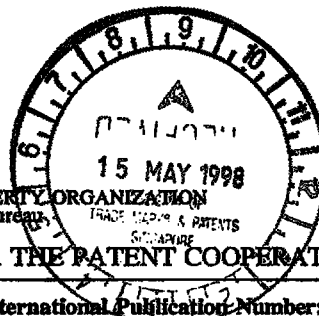


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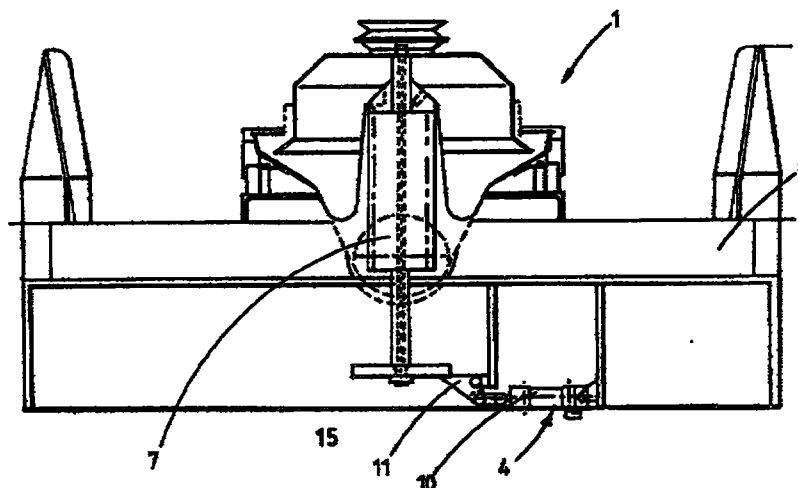
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(54) Title: VALVE FOR THE FLOW CONTROL OF A FLUID COMPRISING SOLID PARTICLES



(57) Abstract

Referring to the drawings, there is shown apparatus (1) for operating a closure (2) for an aperture of a material storage container (3), comprising means (4) to regulate the position of the closure (2) relative to the aperture. The apparatus illustrated is that generally referred to as an Intermediate Bulk Container or IBC, which usually consists of a container (3) with an inlet (5) and an outlet (not shown). The container is mounted on a base part (6) on which it is supported. The base part (6) includes the apparatus (1) for operating a valve or closure (2) of the container, which in the illustrated embodiment is a generally conical device. The base part (6) is further provided with a chute (8) through which product is delivered, which preferably is offset and angled away from the vertical by, for example 30°, as viewed, in order to minimise damage to friable products such as tablets during their progress down the chute (8). There is adjustment means in the form of a piston and cylinder arrangement which has an extensible part for engaging with a detent of lifting means for the device (2) so that an annular gap through which material is discharged is adjustable in width whereby to prevent crushing of material which might be "bridged" in the gap.