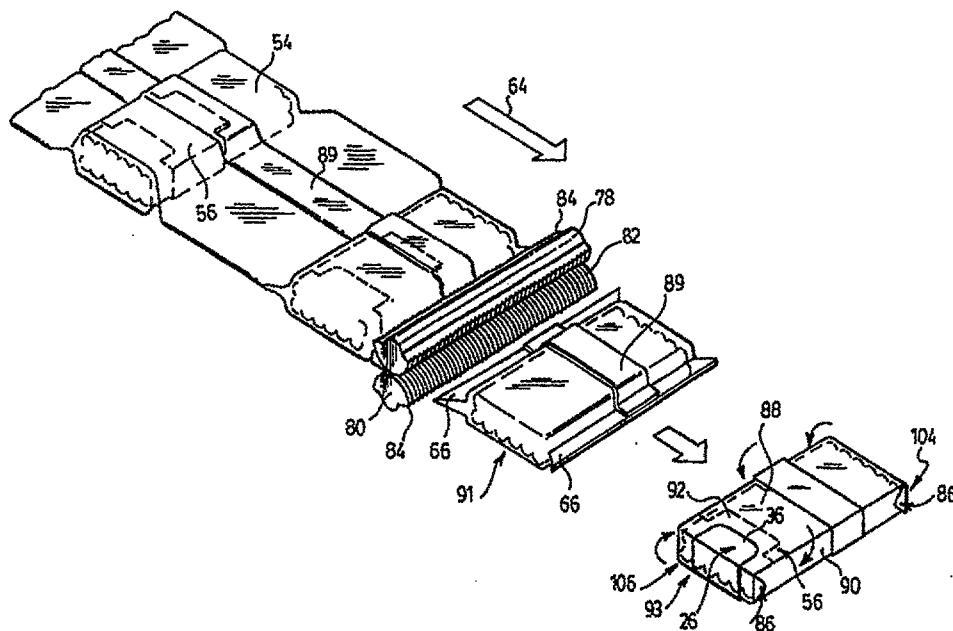




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| <b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b><br><b>B65D 85/10, B65B 19/02</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>A1</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 98/49072</b><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 5 November 1998 (05.11.98)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/CA98/00335<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 9 April 1998 (09.04.98)<br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>2,203,597                      24 April 1997 (24.04.97)                      CA<br><b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> ROTHMANS, BENSON & HEDGES INC. [CA/CA]; 1500 Don Mills Road, North York, Ontario M3B 3L1 (CA).<br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> KEAVENEY, Benedict [CA/CA]; 62 Watercliffe Road, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 4E7 (CA). DAVIDSON, Kenneth, P. [CA/CA]; 10 Thornhill Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4C4 (CA). KACZMAREK, Peter, J. [CA/CA]; 40 Elmsley Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 5YC (CA).<br><b>(74) Agent:</b> WOODLEY, John, H.; Sim & McBurney, 6th floor, 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1R7 (CA). |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i> |

(54) Title: METHOD OF PACKAGING AND PACKAGE FOR A BUNDLE OF CIGARETTES



## (57) Abstract

Flow seal technology is applied to cigarette packages to facilitate rapid cigarette packaging and provide excellent vapour moisture and gas barrier properties. The flow seal package (16, 18) may include a resealable cigarette access (26) which may be opened to permit withdrawal of the cigarette and then a suitable tab (25) resealed on the barrier material to reseal the access opening. The flow seal technology lends itself to vacuum packaging of the cigarettes. Due to the resealing of the access opening, freshness of the cigarettes can be maintained for up to several days.