been used which offer reduced moisture transmission rates, for example vacuum metallised plastics films but these materials are still highly dependent upon achieving a proper seal of the folded, overlapped areas of the film when wrapped around the container.

It has been proposed, for example in WO-A-2009/083344, to apply a continuous plastic coating layer over a filled container in order to provide an improved seal.

It would be desirable to provide a novel way to prevent the ingress or emersion of air, moisture, odours or flavours into or out of the container during storage.

According to an aspect of the invention there is provided a container for consumer goods comprising: a box for housing the consumer goods; an inner frame mounted within the box and having an upper portion extending above the upper edges of the box; and a hinge lid connected to the box along a hinge line and pivotable about the hinge line between an open position and a closed position, in which the inner surfaces of the hinge lid are in contact with the outer surfaces of the upper portion of the inner frame. The inner surfaces of the hinge lid and the outer surfaces of the upper portion of the inner frame are at least partially covered by a sealable coating layer of a sealable material such that the sealable coating layers on the contacting surfaces of the hinge lid and the inner frame can be bonded to each other to form a hermetic seal prior to the first opening of the hinge lid. The material may be capable of being sealable to itself, to other areas of the container that are non-covered by a sealable coating layer, like for example coated cardboard, or to both itself and other non-covered areas of the container. Prior to the first opening of the hinge lid the sealable coating layers on the contacting surfaces of the hinge lid and the inner frame are bonded to each other to form a hermetic seal.

The 'inner surfaces' of the components of containers of the present invention are the surfaces that are facing inwards towards the interior of the container and the consumer goods within the box. The inner surfaces typically provide the inside surfaces of the container when the hinge lid is in the closed position. The components of the container comprise the box and the lid of the container as well as the inner frame.

The 'outer surfaces' of the components of container of the present invention are the surfaces that are facing outwards towards the exterior of the container and away from the consumer goods within the box. In some cases, the outer surfaces of a component, such as the box, may also provide the outer surfaces of the container when the hinge lid is in both open position and the closed position. In other cases, the outer surfaces of a component may not form the outer surfaces of the container in both the open position and the closed position, but may instead be covered by the panels of other components of the container when the hinge lid is in the open or closed position, or both. For example, the outer surfaces of the upper portion of the inner frame are covered by the hinge lid when the hinge lid is in the closed position. The remainder of the outer surfaces of the inner frame are covered by the box walls in both positions.