

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT**Method and Apparatus for Transferring Fluid to a Container**

An apparatus comprises a tank (12) containing a liquid or gas product (17) to be supplied to re-fill a container, for example an aerosol canister. A source of high pressure gas is provided to the tank via a pipe (9) and a valve (8). The product (17) is urged along a pipe (16) and via a valve (14) to a filling head (20). The filling head may be hand-held or attached to a part of the apparatus. The filling head contains a valve responsive to being placed over an inlet valve of a container (not shown) to be filled with product, for example, hairspray. When correctly located relative to the container, the valve opens and product flows into the container. The filling process stops when the pressure difference between the tank (12) and the container becomes negligible. The invention permits re-filling of customer's containers, for example at a supermarket, with product thus reducing the long-term cost of the product, increasing customer loyalty and addressing environmental concerns regarding waste disposal. By arranging for the delivery of product to stop when the pressure differential between the tank (12) and the container, a cost-effective and simple-to-use apparatus is provided. The invention further relates to a method of filling a container.

(Figure 1)