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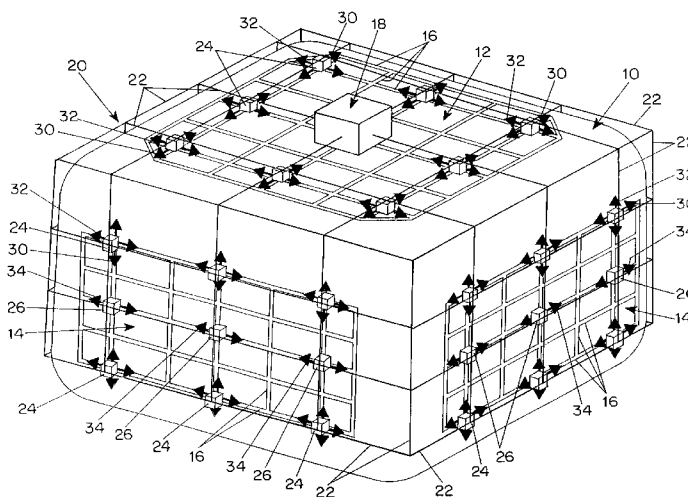
(43) International Publication Date
17 April 2003 (17.04.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/031274 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65D 25/00**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/31498
- (22) International Filing Date: 3 October 2002 (03.10.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/972,565 5 October 2001 (05.10.2001) US
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT FOR SEMI-MEMBRANE TANK WALLS



(57) **Abstract:** In the support arrangements for a semi-membrane tank walls described in the specification, the top and side walls (12,14) of a semi-membrane tank (10) are provided with stiffener members (16) and a surrounding tank support structure (20) has support members (22) which are connected to the stiffener members (16) through support assemblies (24,26) which provide vertical support for the tank walls (12,14) while permitting relative motion in the horizontal direction. Each support assembly (24,26) includes a bracket (48) affixed to one of the support members and a spool (36) affixed to a wall stiffener (16) along with a thermally insulating block (40) having an end portion (52) slidably received in the bracket (48) and having an internal groove extending in a direction orthogonal to the sliding motion of the end portion (52). The enlarged head of the spool (36) affixed to the stiffener (16) is received in the groove, thereby permitting relative motion of the tank wall (12,14) with respect to the support structure (20) in two orthogonal directions while providing load support for the tank wall (12,14) in the vertical direction.



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