Claims

1. A method for detecting whether a tag is proximate to a spreader, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting the tag by a sensing device mounted to the spreader;

locating the tag in a danger zone relative to the spreader, and then;

activating a danger zone alarm to an operator of the spreader;

if the tag is no longer located in the danger zone;

determining if the tag has entered a caution zone;

if the tag is located in the caution zone, then clearing the danger zone alarm;

if the tag has not been located in the caution zone or the danger zone, then;

maintaining the danger zone alarm.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step, after the maintaining step, of clearing the danger zone alarm if the tag is subsequently located in the caution zone.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, further including the steps, after the maintaining step, of:

commencing an under container mode;

determining whether the tag is within the danger zone;

if not in the danger zone, determining if the tag is in the caution zone;

if not in the danger zone or caution zone, then;

activating an under-container alarm.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein activation of the danger zone alarm includes stopping operation of the spreader.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein activation of the under-container alarm includes stopping operation of the spreader.

6. A system for detecting whether a tag is proximate to a spreader, the system comprising:

one or more sensing devices arrange to detect the tag by a sensing device mounted to the spreader;

said one or more sensing devices in communication with a control system;

said sensing devices arranged to locate the tag in a danger zone relative to the spreader;

said control system, on receipt of a signal from the one or more sensing devices, arranged to activate a danger zone alarm;

the control system further arranged to clear the danger zone alarm if the sensing devices detect the tag has entered a caution zone;

if the sensing devices no longer detect the tag in either the danger zone or caution zone, the control system is arranged to maintain the danger zone alarm.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the control system is arranged to commence an under container mode if, subsequently, the tag cannot be detected in either the danger zone or the caution zone;

said control system then arranged to activate an under-container alarm.