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BODY DETECTOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A body detector (10) detects when a body (12) is absent
from a region (26) being monitored. The body (12) has a
different dielectric constant than air. The region (26) is
configured as a capacitor (20) in which the body (12), if
present, serves as a dielectric. The capacitance of the
capacitor (20) is measured (28). This measurement influences
10 a baseline value (34). The capacitance is measured (38) a
second time. The second measurement is checked to verify
that it is within minimum (42) and maximum (46) values. In
addition, it is checked to verify that it is within a more
narrow range (54) that is defined in response to the baseline
15 value. The second measurement is then used to adjust the
baseline value and the process repeats. The range (54) within
which the capacitance must stay slowly adapts to changes in
the capacitance of the capacitor (20). Abrupt changes in the
capacitance cause an alarm to be annunciated.

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(FIG. 1 accompanies this abstract).