CLAIMS

1. A scanning arrangement for a mobile shelving system comprising a plurality of emitters and a plurality of opposing detectors wherein electromagnetic signals are emitted from the emitters and received by the detectors and an obstruction can be determined through the interruption of said electromagnetic signals;
wherein the mobile shelving system is elevated off of the ground and the electromagnetic signals pass underneath the mobile shelving system; and
wherein emitters are grouped together in emitter modules and detectors are grouped together in opposing detector modules and wherein every emitter in an emitter module module sends a signal to every detector in an opposing detector module thus forming a detection curtain.

2. A scanning arrangement as in claim 1 wherein multiple emitter modules and multiple detector modules are chained together to form an extended detection curtain.

3. A scanning arrangement as in claim 2 wherein each emitter is operated in sequence.

4. A scanning arrangement as in claim 3, wherein as each emitter in an emitter module is operated, each detector in an opposing detector module is monitored for the reception of a signal, and wherein a break in the detection curtain is determined if any one of the detectors in the opposing detector module does not receive a signal from each of the emitters in the emitter module.

5. A scanning arrangement as in any one of the preceding claims wherein the emitters and detectors are arranged orthogonally to the shelves of the mobile shelving system.

6. A scanning arrangement as in any one of the preceding claims wherein the electromagnetic signals are infrared signals.

7. A scanning arrangement as in any one of the preceding claims wherein the electromagnetic signals are visible light signals.

8. A scanning arrangement as in any one of the preceding claims wherein the electromagnetic signals are modulated to allow the signals to be distinguished from ambient signals.

9. A mobile shelving system including a scanning arrangement as in any one of the preceding

claims.

10. A mobile shelving system as in claim 9 wherein if an obstruction is detected movement of the system is halted until the obstruction is removed.