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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **EVONIK ROHMAX ADDITIVES GMBH** [DE/DE]; Kirschenallee, 64293 Darmstadt (DE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **KINKER, Bernard** [US/US]; 4515 Durham Road, Kintnersville, Pennsylvania 18930 (US). **ROMASZEWSKI, Raymond** [US/US]; 5171 Route 212, Riegelsville, Pennsylvania 18077 (US).

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(54) **Title:** A METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE OXIDATIVE STABILITY OF A LUBRICATING FLUID

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention concerns a method for the determination of the oxidative stability of a lubricating fluid, comprising the steps of: introducing a sample of the lubricating fluid under test in an reaction cell; introducing catalytic amounts of a catalyst to the reaction cell; heating the cell to the oxidation temperature of the lubricating fluid and maintaining this temperature; delivering oxygen containing gas at constant flow rate through the cell over the course of the reaction; delivering a gas comprising nitrogen dioxide at a constant flow rate through the cell for a specified time; applying and maintaining a specified vacuum on the reaction cell; allowing the mixture to react for a specified time; measuring the viscosity of the oxidized lubricating fluid. Additionally, the present invention describes an apparatus for the determination of the oxidative stability of a lubricating fluid.