Claims

1. An apparatus for washing articles, the apparatus comprising:

at least one washing module; and

a drying module configured to receive washed articles from the at least one washing module and to dry the washed articles;

wherein the drying module comprises a conveyor which is configured to move the washed articles along a transport path having a first substantially helical section to transport the washed articles from a first height to a second height and a second substantially helical section configured to transport the washed articles from the second height to the first height;

wherein the drying module includes a plurality of temperature zones, - the temperature zones of the first helical section arranged in order of increasing temperature from the first height to the second height; and the temperature zones of the second helical section arranged in order of decreasing temperature from the second height to the first height. ~~such that washed articles are subjected to varying temperatures as they are conveyed along the transport path from the first height to the second height;~~

~~wherein the temperature zones are arranged in order of increasing temperature.~~

~~2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transport path comprises a second substantially helical section configured to transport the washed articles from the second height to the first height.~~

~~3.~~2.An apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1, comprising a continuous transition section at the second height between an exit of the first substantially helical section and an entry of the second substantially helical section.

~~4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the temperature zones of the second helical section are arranged in order decreasing temperature between the second height and the first height.~~

~~5.~~3.A drying module for an industrial washing apparatus comprising at least one washing module, the drying module being configured to receive washed articles from the at least one washing module and to dry the washed articles; the drying module comprising: a conveyor which is configured to move the washed articles along a transport path comprising a first substantially helical section to transport the washed articles from a first height to a second height and a second substantially helical section configured to transport the washed articles from the second height to the first height;~~;~~

wherein the drying module includes a plurality of temperature zones, the temperature zones of the first helical section arranged in order of increasing temperature from the first height to the second height; and the temperature zones of the second helical section arranged in order of decreasing temperature from the second height to the first height. ~~such that washed articles are subjected to varying temperatures as they are conveyed along the transport path from the first height to the second height;~~

~~wherein the temperature zones are arranged in order of increasing temperature.~~

~~6. A drying module according to claim 5, wherein the transport path comprises a second substantially helical section configured to transport the washed articles from the second height to the first height.~~

~~7.~~4.A drying module according to claim ~~6~~3, comprising a continuous transition section at the second height between an exit of the first substantially helical channel and an entry of the second substantially helical channel.

~~8. A drying module according to claim 6, wherein the temperature zones of the second helical section are arranged in order of decreasing temperature between the second height and the first height.~~

~~9.~~5. A method of drying washed articles, the method comprising the steps of: conveying the washed articles along a transport path having at least one substantially helical section;

such that the conveying step includes conveying the washed articles along a first helical path between a first height and a second height;

progressively heating the washed articles as they travel along the first helical path;

conveying the washed articles along a second helical path between the second height and the first height; and

progressively cooling the washed articles as they travel along the second helical path.