

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/78627 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65D 33/00**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/16964

(22) International Filing Date: 16 June 2000 (16.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/336,211 18 June 1999 (18.06.1999) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (util-
ity model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN,
CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model),
DK, DK (utility model), DM, EE, EE (utility model), ES,
FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID,
IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT,
LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL,
PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL,
TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

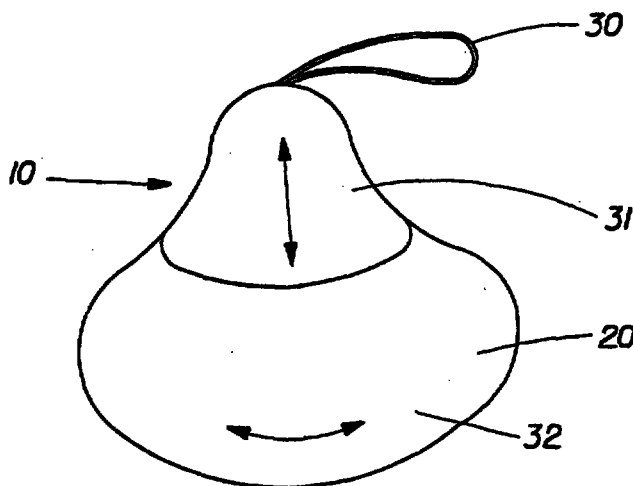
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— Without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **FLEXIBLE BAGS HAVING ENHANCED CAPACITY AND ENHANCED STABILITY IN USE**



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a flexible bag comprising at least one sheet of flexible sheet material assembled to form a semi-enclosed container having an opening defined by a periphery. The opening defines an opening plane, and the bag has an upper region adjacent to the opening and a lower region below the upper region. The upper region has a preferential elongation axis perpendicular to the opening plane which permits the upper region to expand in response to an externally-applied force upon the bag, while the lower region has a preferential elongation axis parallel to the opening plane which permits the lower region to expand in response to forces exerted by contents within the bag to provide an increase in volume of said bag. The bag therefore exhibits increased stability in use and is easier to close.