Claims

1. Method for transporting a packaging shell (1) of an ophthalmic lens package from a start location to a destination location, the method comprising the steps of

at a start location providing a packaging shell comprising a depression for accommodating an ophthalmic lens and a storage solution, the packaging shell further comprising a flange completely surrounding the depression,

providing a suction cup having an opening at a distal end of the suction cup the opening of the suction cup being completely surrounded by a rim having a size and shape adapted to engage the flange of the packaging shell in an engagement area completely enclosing the depression of the packaging shell,

positioning the suction cup and the packaging shell relative to one another such that the rim of the suction cup and the engagement area of the flange of the packaging shell are arranged facing each other,

applying suction through the opening of the suction cup to make the flange of the packaging shell adhere to the rim of the suction cup in the engagement area such that the engagement area completely encloses the depression of the packaging shell,

moving the suction cup with the packaging shell adhered to the suction cup to the destination location,

at the destination location releasing the suction applied through the opening of the suction cup so as to release the packaging shell from the suction cup,

wherein the step of providing the suction cup includes arranging a flexible sealing gasket at the rim of the suction cup the flexible sealing gasket, being adapted to sealingly engage the flange of the packaging shell in the engagement area.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of at the destination location releasing the suction applied through the opening of the suction cup includes applying overpressure through the opening of the suction cup.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the shape of the flange of the depression and the shape of the rim of the suction cup correspond to one another, with the size of the rim of the suction cup being larger than the size of the flange at the boundary of the depression while being smaller than an outer boundary of the flange of the packaging shell.

4. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the flexible sealing gasket is an O-ring.

5. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the rim of the suction cup comprises a groove, and wherein an upper portion of the flexible sealing gasket is mounted in the groove, while a lower portion of the flexible sealing gasket axially protrudes from the rim of the suction cup.

6. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the suction cup has a vacuum inlet for applying the suction to the opening of the suction cup.

7. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the suction is in the range of 200 hPa to 900 hPa.

8. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the flexible sealing gasket is made of an elastomer, particularly silicone rubber.

9. Method for transporting a packaging shell according to claim 1, wherein the packaging shell to be transported comprises a cover film bonded to the packaging shell.