

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HIGH SPEED ARTICLE PROCESSING**ABSTRACT**

A baggage handling system includes a plurality of baggage trays for carrying baggage and a conveyor for transporting the trays at a given speed. A diverter selectively removes baggage from the conveyor and positions the baggage on an accumulator. An unloader is provided to unload the baggage from the accumulator. The accumulation in one mode slows baggage as received from the conveyor and presents the slowed baggage to an unloading device at a generally constant rate, such a rate being dependent of the rate at which the baggage is diverted from the conveyor. The unloader uses a tipping mechanism employing wheel guides and an actuator for gentle tipping of the baggage from the accumulator to another zone such as a make-up area in an airport baggage handling system.

FIGURE 1