



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : B65D 63/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/23347 (43) International Publication Date: 27 April 2000 (27.04.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE99/01851 (22) International Filing Date: 14 October 1999 (14.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 9803661-9 22 October 1998 (22.10.98) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ABB AB [SE/SE]; S-721 83 Västerås (SE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BRYFORS, Uno [SE/SE]; Jakobsbergsgatan 2B, S-724 61 Västerås (SE). JOHANSSON, Christer [SE/SE]; Fjärdhundragatan 25B, S-723 40 Västerås (SE). (74) Agents: ABB AB et al.; Patent, Gideonsbergsgatan 2, Tegnérområdet, S-721 78 Västerås (SE).	(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, 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, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, 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 <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i>	

(54) Title: **METHOD FOR HANDLING CONTAINERS AND A MEANS TO CARRY OUT A METHOD FOR SELECTING A DESIRED POSITION ON A STACKING TARGET**

(57) Abstract

A method for handling containers in which containers are stacked using a moveable crane with a travelling part such as a trolley (8) arranged to lift, move and land a container (7) on a stacking target (15) in a stack comprising at least one ground container (1). The method is characterised by the steps of measuring the horizontal position of the stacking target (15), determining the horizontal position of the ground container (1), and comparing the relative positions of stacking target (15) and ground container (1). An overlap is developed from the relative positions of the stacking target (15) and the ground container (1), and compared to predetermined limits. If the overlap is within limits a desired landing position (25) on the stacking target (15) is selected for the container (7). Advantages include automatic stacking, faster stacking, safer stacks and dense packing of stacks in a container terminal. Also disclosed is a means to carry out a method for selecting a desired position on a stacking target.

