[0014] The valve includes a movable valve member that has an anchor that is mounted on the body to accommodate movement between (i) an initially installed first location relative to the body, and (ii) a selectively mechanically maintainable second location relative to the body. The valve member further includes a deflectable, resilient flange that (i) extends laterally from the anchor, and (ii) defines a seal portion for effecting a sealing engagement with the valve seat on the body second side surface around the flow passage opening at the body second side surface when the anchor is in the first location relative to the body while the pressure on the first side of the valve does not exceed the pressure on the second side of the valve by more than a predetermined amount.

[0015] The valve includes a fulcrum located at one of the valve member and/or the body between the valve member flange and the body second side surface whereby the valve can be selectively opened by pushing the anchor relative to the body toward the second location to pivot at least a portion of the valve member flange about the fulcrum and thereby deflect at least part of the seal portion out of sealing engagement with the valve seat on the body second side surface to open the valve to establish communication through the valve between the first and second sides of the valve. The fulcrum has the form of four rounded posts located on one of the valve member and/or the body second side surface, the posts located on a circular locus.

[0016] According to another aspect of the invention, the body is a part of a container that can be subjected to a first pressure on the exterior of the container that exceeds a second pressure on the interior of the container. The valve member flange is located at the exterior of the container.

[0017] According to another aspect of the invention, the body has a plurality of flow passages arranged to extend between the body first and second side surfaces. Each of the flow passages defines a flow passage opening at the body second side surface so that the flow passage openings at the body second side surface lie on a circular locus on the body second side surface.

[0018] According to still another aspect of the invention, the valve member flange is a flexible, resilient membrane that has a generally circular configuration extending from the anchor. The valve member seal portion is an annular lip for sealingly engaging

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A normally closed valve that i) can automatically open to establish communication through the valve between first and second sides of the valve in response to a pressure on the first side of the valve exceeding the pressure on the second side of the valve by a predetermined amount, and ii) can also be selectively opened to establish communication through the valve between the first and second sides of the valve, said valve comprising:

I. a body defining

A. a first side surface and a second side surface;

B. at least one flow passage extending through said body between said first side surface and said second side surface to define i) a flow passage opening at said body first side surface, and ii) a flow passage opening at said body second side surface; and

C. a valve seat that i) is located on said second side surface, and ii) encompasses said flow passage opening at said second side surface;

II. a valve member that includes

A. an anchor that is mounted on said body to accommodate movement between i) an initially installed first location relative to said body, and ii) a selectively mechanically maintainable second location relative to said body; and

B. a flange that is deflectable and resilient, and that i) extends laterally from said anchor, and ii) defines a seal portion for effecting a sealing engagement with said valve seat on said second side surface around said flow passage opening at said second side surface when said anchor is in said first location relative to said body while the pressure on the first side of said valve does not exceed the pressure on the second side of said valve by more than a predetermined amount;

III. a fulcrum located at one of said valve member and/or said body between said flange and said second side surface whereby said valve can be selectively opened by pushing said anchor relative to said body toward said second location to pivot at least a portion of said flange about said fulcrum and thereby deflect at least part of said seal portion out of sealing engagement with said valve seat on

said second side surface to open said valve to establish communication through said valve between the first and second sides of said valve; and wherein said fulcrum has the form of four rounded posts located on one of said valve member and/or said second side surface of said body, said posts located on a circular locus.

2. The valve in accordance with claim 1 in which

said body has a plurality of said flow passages arranged to extend between said first side surface and said second side surface of said body; and

each of said flow passages defines a flow passage opening at said second side surface of said body so that said flow passage openings at said second side surface of said body lie on a circular locus.

3. The valve in accordance with claim 2 in which

said flange of said valve member is a flexible, resilient membrane that has a generally circular configuration extending from said anchor; and

said seal portion of said valve member is an annular lip for sealingly engaging said valve seat around said plurality of said flow passage openings at said second side surface of said body.

4. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 3 in which

said body defines a mounting aperture extending between said first side surface and said second side surface of said body;

said anchor of said valve member has i) a middle portion received in said mounting aperture, ii) a first end portion extending beyond said mounting aperture at said first side surface of said body, and iii) a second end portion extending beyond said mounting aperture at said second side surface of said body;

said flange of said valve member is located adjacent said second side surface of said body and extends from said second end portion of said anchor; and

said first end portion of said anchor is enlarged and extends adjacent to, and engages, said first side surface of said body for inhibiting movement of said first

end portion through said mounting aperture in the direction from said first side surface toward said second side surface of said body.

5. The valve in accordance with claim 4 in which said flange is sufficiently resilient so that said seal portion can engage said valve seat with a sealing force to bias said anchor to said first location wherein said enlarged first end portion of said anchor is pulled against said first side surface of said body adjacent said mounting aperture to maintain said anchor at said first location unless said anchor is moved with an external force sufficient to overcome said bias.

6. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 5 in which said fulcrum are posts projecting from said second side surface of said body toward said valve member flange.

7. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 5 in which said fulcrum are posts projecting from said flange of said valve member toward said second side surface of said body.

8. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 7 wherein said flange includes a top surface that faces away from said second side surface of said body and which defines a radius of curvature, said flange further includes a bottom surface that faces said second side surface and which defines a radius of curvature, and wherein said radius of curvature of said bottom surface is greater than said radius of curvature of said top surface.

9. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 8 wherein said anchor defines a central axis and said fulcrum is located radially outwardly of said flow passage opening at said body second side surface, as measured from said central axis.

10. The valve in accordance with any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said body includes four flow passages each of which has the form of an arcuate slot extending between said first side surface and said second side surface of said body.

11. The valve is in accordance with any of claims 1 to 10 in which

said body is a molded thermoplastic insert for a container that can be subjected to a first pressure on the exterior of the container that exceeds a second pressure on the interior of the container;

said valve member is a molded elastomer; and

said valve member is arranged with said body such that the flange of said valve member is located at the exterior of said container.

12. The valve is in accordance with any of claims 1 to 11 in combination with a container in the form of a flexible pouch, said valve located at an opening of said pouch.