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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/11598 (22) International Filing Date: 11 June 1998 (11.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/049,346 11 June 1997 (11.06.97) US (71) Applicant: RANPAK CORP. [US/US]; 7990 Auburn Road, Concord Township, OH 44077 (US). (72) Inventors: ARMINGTON, Steven, E.; Ranpak Corp., Intellectual Property Dept., 7990 Auburn Road, Concord Township, OH 44077 (US). RATZEL, Richard, O.; 1751 Taylor's Mill Turn, Westlake, OH 44145 (US). GUTH, Paul, J.; 25020 Timbridge Lane, Beachwood, OH 44122 (US). BOOZE, MacDonald, C.; 106 Woodbridge Road, York, ME 03909 (US). (74) Agent: BULSON, Don, W.; Renner, Otto, Boisselle & Sklar, P.L.L., 19th floor, 1621 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: CUSHIONING CONVERSION SYSTEM AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

A packaging system includes a cushioning conversion machine for converting stock material into relatively low density cushioning material or dunnage and a packaging system controller. The packaging system controller provides packaging instructions related to a part or parts to be packaged and instructs the cushioning conversion machine to produce the cushioning material. In one aspect of the present invention the packaging system controller provides packaging instructions by retrieving a predetermined set of packaging instructions associated with a particular part. In another aspect of the present invention the packaging system controller provides packaging instructions by determining an optimized packaging methodology using one or more characteristics of the part or parts to be packaged. The packaging system also provides for automated inventory control and productivity monitoring.

