VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I, Jean Nguimbus

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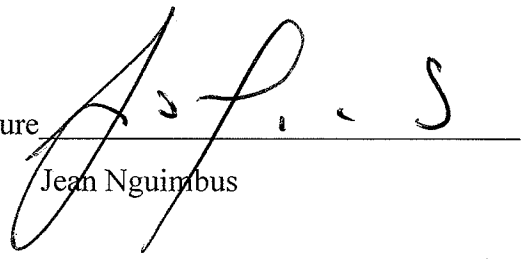
declare that I am well acquainted with both the French and English languages, and that the attached is an accurate translation, to the best of my knowledge and ability, of French Patent No. 1,509,165, filed on December 1, 1966.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature 
Jean Nguimbus

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FRENCH REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY SERVICE

PATENT

P.V. No. 85,743 No. 1,509,165

International Classification: G 09 f

Control or Identification Plastic Collar for Containers

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(Patent whose issuance has been postponed in pursuance of Article 11, § 7, of the Act of July 5, 1844, as amended by the Act of April 7, 1902)

It is common to provide reference marks or indications for inspection or identification, for example, on containers used for certain applications. Thus, it is known to provide reference marks corresponding to a date of inspection or start of service on liquefied gas cylinders, to enable one to determine the periods of inspection of the cylinders after several refills, in order to detect possible failures capable of dangerously lowering the pressure strength of the cylinders. These reference marks are often in the form of embossed indications on metallic collars positioned under the cap of the cylinder. These indications are comprised of characters, letters and/or digits.

However, given that a layer of paint is usually sprayed onto each cylinder at the time of refill, the successive layers of paint eventually blur the embossed indications of the collars or of the cylinder itself, thereby making them very difficult to read. Generally, it is then necessary to scratch the paint, which is a waste of time, if one wishes to avoid any risk of exceeding the inspection period. Furthermore, the metallic collars are sometimes bent repeatedly, and eventually cut and detached from the cylinder, so that the inspection period can no longer be determined.

One of the objects of the invention is to remedy this drawback and to enable the embodiment of a novel type of collar intended for containers and usable for the purpose of inspection, identification, etc.

As a new industrial product, the invention is embodied in a collar for inspection, identification, etc., for containers, particularly liquefied gas cylinders, such collar being made of a tear-resistant plastic material bearing the inspection or identification reference marks in the form of a projecting shape arranged at the periphery of the collar and/or cutouts arranged in said collar or on its edge.

The use of a tear-resistant plastic material (especially thermoplastic material) substantially eliminates the risks of deterioration resulting from multiple bends, as is the case of metallic collars, and further allows for easy manufacture by molding, cutting, or a similar technique. A number of tear-resistant plastic materials are commercially available, and the invention is not limited to the use of a particular material.

Furthermore, the arrangement of the reference marks on the collar allows for an easy and permanent determination. Indeed, it is easily understood that an indication provided in the form of a projecting shape at the periphery of the collar cannot be covered by the applied paint, for example, and that the same result is obtained for the reference marks formed by cutouts arranged in the collar. The tear resistance of the plastic material also prevents tearing of the corresponding portions of the flange.

It is known in the liquefied gas industry to identify inspection periods, for example by a number indicating the year of inspection or manufacture of the cylinder, and a letter (A, B, C, or D) indicating the quarter of the inspection or start of service. According to a particular feature of the invention, the integrally formed plastic collar may be provided on its periphery with a plurality of sets of characters separated from one another and, depending upon the date of inspection or

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start of service and the desired identification, some of the character sets are cut, using a suitable device, to remove them from the collar. This solution makes it possible, in this case, to quadruple the number of collars that are manufactured simultaneously, thereby reducing the production cost, especially given the low price of the constituent plastic material of the collars.

The following description is given, with reference to the annexed drawings and by way of non-limiting example, for a better understanding the invention.

FIG. 1 is a vertical cross-sectional view of a container provided with a collar according to the invention.

FIGS. 2 and 3 are partial plan views of two embodiments of collars.

FIG. 4 shows a collar bearing four sets of identification characters on its periphery.

The collar 1 according to the invention is made of a tear-resistant plastic material (e.g., a thermoplastic material) having a certain flexibility, and enabling its elastic engagement, particularly by forcing, onto the neck 3 of a container formed, for example, by a liquefied gas cylinder.

According to the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the collar 1 carries projecting identification characters 5, formed here by a letter and a digit, on its outer peripheral edge 4. As mentioned, these characters are affixed to the material forming the collar and are obtained integrally with this collar, for example by molding or cutting the plastic material. Due to the tear resistance of this plastic material, separation of these characters in relation to the collar is hardly a concern, even in the event of repeated bending. Moreover, these characters cannot be made difficult to read during use, for example as a result of the paint sprayed onto the container between refills. It is understood that making such characters at the time of manufacture is easy, and technicians specializing in plastic materials have a number of processes at their disposal for rapid and low cost manufacturing.

According to the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the characters 6 are formed by cutouts in the body of the collar 1. Here again, no reading difficulty can occur as a result of the application of layers of paint on the container.

As indicated above, it is common, in particular in the case of inspection collars intended for liquefied gas cylinders, to indicate the periods of inspection on the collar in the form of an indication defined by a digit specifying the year and a letter (A, B, C or D) indicating the quarter. In this case, as shown in FIG. 4, the collar 1 is provided on its periphery, during manufacture by molding or cutting, for example, with four sets of characters designated by the reference numerals 7, 8, 9 and 10, corresponding to the four quarters of the same year. Thus, it is possible to manufacture a quadrupled number of collars using the same tooling, thereby reducing the production cost, as will be readily understood. At the time of use, it is then sufficient to cut three of the character sets 7, 8, 10, for example by means of a cutting device shown schematically at 11, and simply leaving the appropriate character set 9 at the periphery of the collar.

Modifications may be made to the embodiments described, in the context of technical equivalences, without departing from the invention.

SUMMARY

1. A novel industrial product, namely a collar for inspection, identification, etc., for containers, in particular liquefied gas cylinders, comprised of a tear-resistant plastic material bearing reference marks enabling inspection or identification in the form of a projecting shape arranged at the periphery of the collar and/or cutouts provided in said collar or on its edge.
2. Embodiments of this collar having the following conjugatable characteristics:

a. It is obtained by molding or cutting;

b. It carries, on its peripheral edge, a number of integrally formed inspection or identification characters, some of these characters being removed by cutting at the time of use.

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FIG. 1

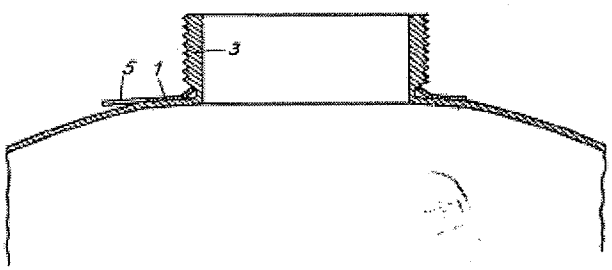


FIG. 2

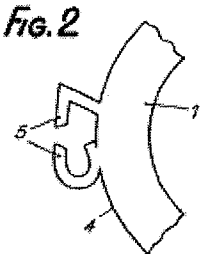


FIG. 3

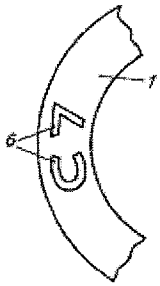
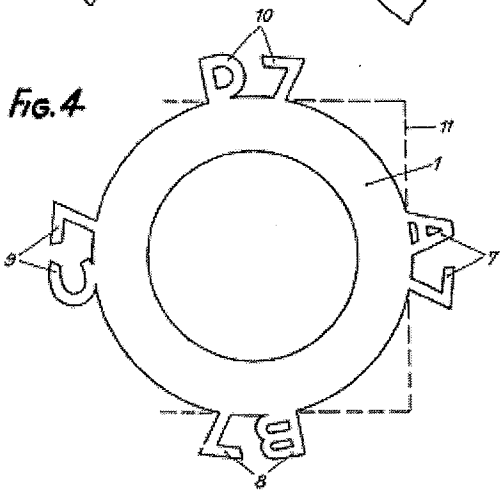


FIG. 4



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