



No. 10-155079- -00003-0000

Fecha: 2011-07-26 17:34:04 Dep. 2020 DIR.NUEVASCR
Tra 11 PATENTEIYII Eve: 378 FASENACIONALI
Act. 329 CTOINFORMACION Folios: 20

Act. 330 COMUNICACIÓN Folios: 20

ón

FORMULARIO UNICO DE CORRECCIONES

①

SOLICITUD DE

☐

Corrección de Error Material

☒

Modificación de una solicitud

②

SOLICITANTE

Nombre: David Murray MELROSE

Dirección: 88 Balmoral Road Mt Eden Auckland , 1024, Nueva Zelanda

Nacionalidad o Domicilio: Nueva Zelanda

Lugar de Constitución: Nueva Zelanda

Teléfono:

Fax:

E-Mail

IDENTIFICACION

C.C.

☐

NIT

☐

C.E.

☐

Otro

☐

Cual

Número

③

REPRESENTANTE
O APODERADO

Nombre: ALVARO CORREA ORDOÑEZ

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IDENTIFICACION

C.C.

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NIT

☐

C.E.

☐

Otro

☐

Cual

Número 79.143.366

TP 20.281

④

Numero de expediente

10 155.079

⑤

Descripción de la corrección o modificación solicitada De acuerdo con el Artículo 34 de la Decisión 486, se presenta modificación voluntaria al capítulo reivindicatorio en el cual se cancelaron las reivindicaciones 10 y 17; así mismo, se presentan las modificaciones hechas en el Examen Preliminar Internacional (anexo).

⑥

Comprobante de Pago No. 11-0064158

Fecha 01-07-2011

⑦

Anexos

☒

Comprobante de pago de la tasa.

☐

Poderes, si fuere el caso.

☐

Documento que acredita la existencia y representación legal de las partes, cuando sean personas jurídicas.

⑧

NOMBRE ALVARO CORREA ORDOÑEZ

FIRMA

C.C. 79.143.366

T.P. 20.281

Instrucciones para el diligenciamiento del presente formulario, ver reverso de esta página.

2011/011

SUPERINTENDENCIA DE INDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO

NIT : 800.176.089-2

- / -



RECIBO DE CAJA

No. 11 - 0064158

Bogotá D.C., Julio 01 de 2011 - 14:27:42

RECIBIDO DE : BAIER & MOEENZIE

NI 900.034.906

*** Soporte del Pago ***

TIPO PAGO	BANCO	CUENTA	No. PAGO	FECHA PAGO	VALOR PAGO
CONSIGNACION	BANCO DE BOGOTA	062754387	325065742	01/07/2011	95.266.500.00

*** Conceptos Pagados ***

CAUSAL PEUTISTICO	CONCEPTO	VALOR UNITARIO	VALOR CONCEPTO
1 50005-01-03 CAMBIO DE MODALIDAD Y MODIFICACIONES EN CREACION CORRECCION A SOLICITUD EN TRAMITE / MODIFICA		118.000.00	118.000.00
			\$118.000.00

SON: **CIENTO DIECIOCHO MIL PESOS MONEDA CORRIENTE**

Responsable: _____

Recibo de Caja Aplicado al Expediente No. _____

SUPERINTENDENCIA DE INDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO



No. 10-155079- -00003-0000

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que forma parte del conocimiento general común en cualquier país o región.

Objetivos de la Invención

5 En vista de lo anterior, un objetivo de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de sellado y modificación de espacio libre que pueda proporcionar la eliminación de la presión de vacío, de modo que no exista, de manera sustancial, una fuerza restante
10 dentro del recipiente.

Un objetivo adicional de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de compresión de espacio libre, por medio de lo cual el aire, o algún otro gas o líquido o combinación de los mismos, es cargado en el
15 espacio libre bajo una presión sellada que crea un aumento de presión con el propósito de anular el efecto de la presión de vacío creada durante el enfriamiento del producto.

Un objetivo adicional de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de modificación
20 de espacio libre, por medio de lo cual, un líquido estéril o calentado, o aire, u algún otro gas o combinación de los mismos, es cargado en el espacio libre bajo condiciones estériles a fin de crear una presión positiva con el propósito de anular el efecto de la presión de vacío creada
25 durante el enfriamiento del producto.

Un objetivo adicional de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de modificación de espacio libre, por medio de lo cual, aire estéril, o algún otro gas o líquido o combinación de los mismos, es cargado en el espacio libre bajo una presión de sellado que anula el efecto de la presión de vacío creada durante el enfriamiento del producto.

Un objetivo adicional de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de modificación de espacio libre, por medio de lo cual, un sello de compresión es aplicado en el acabado de cuello del recipiente.

Un objetivo adicional de una modalidad posible de la presente invención es proporcionar un método de desplazamiento de espacio libre, por medio de lo cual, un sello de compresión es aplicado en el acabado de cuello, de modo que pueda ser desplazado de manera forzada dentro del recipiente antes del enfriamiento de los contenidos líquidos, de manera que la presión positiva podría ser inducida en el recipiente.

Un objetivo adicional y alternativo de la presente invención en todas sus modalidades, todos los objetivos serán leídos, en forma disyuntiva, es proporcionar al menos al público una elección útil.

Sumario de la Invención

De acuerdo con un aspecto de la presente invención, se proporciona un recipiente que tiene un sello o una tapa que incluye, o es adaptada para proporcionar, un orificio o
5 apertura en dicho recipiente, dicha apertura proporciona, en uso, para la introducción bajo presión al menos de un fluido, dicho orificio o apertura también puede ser sellado bajo presión, en uso, para proporcionar un incremento de la
10 presión interna dentro del recipiente.

De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la presente invención, se proporciona un recipiente que tiene un sello o tapa aplicado, de manera temporal, de manera que un orificio o apertura en dicho recipiente es proporcionado a través de
15 un sello incompleto que es formado entre la tapa y el acabado de cuello del recipiente, dicho orificio o apertura proporciona la introducción bajo presión al menos de un fluido, dicho orificio o apertura es también sellado bajo compresión a fin de proporcionar la elevación controlada de
20 la presión interna dentro del recipiente antes del enfriamiento de los contenidos calientes dentro del recipiente.

De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la presente invención, se proporciona un recipiente que tiene un sello o
25 tapa que proporciona un sello temporal inmediatamente después

del llenado y que tiene una apertura u orificio, puede tenerse acceso a la apertura u orificio bajo condiciones sustancialmente estériles a fin de proporcionar la introducción al menos de un fluido calentado y/o estéril, 5 dicha apertura u orificio también puede ser sellada bajo condiciones sustancialmente estériles a fin de proporcionar la elevación controlada de la presión interna dentro del recipiente después del enfriamiento de los contenidos calientes dentro del recipiente.

10 De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la presente invención, un método de llenado de un recipiente con un fluido incluye la introducción del fluido a través de un extremo abierto del recipiente, de modo que llene el recipiente, al menos de manera sustancial, el calentamiento 15 del fluido antes o después de su introducción en el recipiente, el suministro de un sello o tapa que tiene un orificio o apertura, el suministro de al menos un fluido a través del orificio o apertura y el sellado del orificio o apertura bajo presión, para compensar la reducción 20 subsiguiente de presión en el espacio libre del recipiente por debajo del sello o tapa después del enfriamiento de los contenidos calientes.

De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la invención, un método de llenado de un recipiente con un fluido incluye 25 la introducción del fluido a través de un extremo abierto del

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recipiente de modo que llene el recipiente, al menos de manera sustancial, el calentamiento del fluido antes o después de su introducción en el recipiente, el suministro de un sello o tapa que tiene un orificio o apertura, dicho orificio o apertura puede ser inicialmente sellado, el suministro de los contenidos calientes para el enfriamiento, además, el suministro de un método de acceso subsiguiente al orificio o apertura y la inyección al menos de un fluido a través del orificio o apertura y el sellado de la apertura, para compensar la reducción de presión en el espacio libre del recipiente después del enfriamiento de los contenidos calientes.

De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la presente invención, se proporciona un recipiente que tiene una porción superior con un orificio dentro del recipiente, la porción superior tiene un acabado de cuello adaptado para incluir un sello, subsiguiente a la introducción de un líquido caliente o que puede ser calentado dentro del recipiente, dicho sello puede ser comprimido hacia adentro o puede ser movido en forma mecánica antes o después de que el líquido sea calentado para así incrementar la presión del espacio libre.

De acuerdo con un aspecto adicional de la invención, un método de llenado de un recipiente con un fluido incluye la introducción del fluido a través de un extremo abierto del recipiente de modo que llene el recipiente, al menos de

REIVINDICACIONES

1. Un recipiente, caracterizado porque tiene un sello o tapa que incluye, o es adaptado para proporcionar, un orificio o apertura en el recipiente, el orificio o apertura proporciona, en uso, para la introducción bajo presión al menos de un fluido, el orificio o apertura también puede ser sellado, bajo presión, en uso, a fin de proporcionar una elevación de la presión interna dentro del recipiente.

2. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque al menos un fluido es introducido bajo presión y el orificio o apertura puede ser sellado bajo compresión.

3. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 2, caracterizado porque el sello o tapa es aplicado, en forma temporal, de manera que el orificio o apertura es proporcionado a través de un sello incompleto que es formado entre el sello o tapa y el acabado de cuello del recipiente.

4. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque el sello o tapa proporciona un medio de sellado temporal después del llenado del recipiente, el orificio o apertura es accesible bajo condiciones sustancialmente estériles a fin de proporcionar la introducción al menos de un fluido.

5. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 4, caracterizado porque al menos un fluido es calentado y/o esterilizado y el orificio o apertura además es adaptado para ser sellado bajo condiciones sustancialmente estériles a fin de proporcionar la elevación controlada de la presión interna.

6. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque el fluido es un líquido caliente o un gas inyectado a través del orificio o apertura.

7. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 6, caracterizado porque el orificio o apertura es adaptado de modo que sea cerrado, de manera permanente, después de la inyección del líquido o gas.

8. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque la tapa es compresible dentro del cuello del recipiente hacia su interior.

9. El recipiente de conformidad con la reivindicación 1, caracterizado porque el orificio o apertura incluye un medio de válvula que puede ser operado para abrir y cerrar el orificio o apertura.

10. Un método de llenado de un recipiente con un fluido, caracterizado porque incluye introducir el fluido a través de un extremo abierto del recipiente de manera que

llena el recipiente, al menos de manera sustancial, calentar el fluido antes o después de su introducción en el recipiente, proporcionar un sello o tapa que tiene un orificio o apertura, proporcionar al menos un fluido a través
5 del orificio o apertura y sellar el orificio o apertura bajo presión para compensar la subsiguiente reducción de presión en el espacio libre del recipiente por debajo del sello o tapa después del enfriamiento de los contenidos calientes.

11. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación
10 10, caracterizado porque al menos un fluido pasa a través del orificio o apertura bajo presión.

12. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación 11, caracterizado porque el recipiente es situado en un medio de presurización.

13. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación
15 10, caracterizado porque el recipiente es situado en un medio de esterilización y el fluido es un líquido calentado que es inyectado a través del orificio o apertura.

14. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación
20 10, caracterizado porque el orificio o apertura es proporcionado con un sello temporal o parcial a través del cual se proporciona al menos un fluido.

15. El método de conformidad con la reivindicación
10, caracterizado porque el cuello de recipiente es
25 proporcionado con una tapa compresible que puede moverse

dentro del cuello hacia los contenidos calientes antes de que los contenidos calientes se hayan enfriado.

16. El aparato de llenado de recipiente, caracterizado porque es para el llenado de un recipiente de
5 conformidad con cualquiera una de las reivindicaciones 1-9, o para la realización del método de conformidad con cualquiera una de las reivindicaciones 10-15.

17. El recipiente, caracterizado porque es llenado a través del método de conformidad con cualquiera una de las
10 reivindicaciones 10-15 o el aparato de la reivindicación 16.

18. La tapa para un recipiente, caracterizada porque es adaptada para uso con el recipiente de conformidad con cualquiera una de las reivindicaciones 1-9 o el método de cualquiera una de las reivindicaciones 10-15 o el aparato de
15 la reivindicación 16.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MH507859PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/NZ2009/000079	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 18 May 2009	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 19 May 2008
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. B65B 31/04 (2006.01)		
Applicant MELROSE, David Murray		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of **5** sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of **4** sheets, as follows:

☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3bis of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

☒	Box No. I	Basis of the report
☐	Box No. II	Priority
☒	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
☐	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
☒	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement.
☐	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
☒	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
☐	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12 March 2010	Date of completion of this report 13 April 2010
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. +61 2 6283 7999	Authorized Officer HONG YU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (ISO 9001 Quality Certified Service) Telephone No. +61 2 6283 7946

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/NZ2009/000079

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:
 - ☒ The international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ A translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
 - ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
 - ☒ the description:
 - pages 1-4, 7-18 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* 5-6 received by this Authority on 12 March 2010 with the letter of 12 March 2010
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - ☒ the claims:
 - pages as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - pages* 19-20 received by this Authority on 12 March 2010 with the letter of 12 March 2010
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - ☒ the drawings:
 - pages 1/32-32/32 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of
 - ☐ a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. ☐ This report has been established taking into account the rectification of an obvious mistake authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 70.2(e)).
6. ☐ Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) _____ have been received and taken into account in drawing up this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/NZ2009/000079

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos: 10, 17

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos:
relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos.
are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos.
are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ no international search report has been established for said claim Nos. 10, 17

☐ A meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b) and 13ter.2.

☐ See Supplemental Box for further details.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/NZ2009/000079

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20	YES
	Claims none	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20	YES
	Claims none	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20	YES
	Claims none	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

D1: US 5251424
D2: US 2004/0265447
D3: GB 2271347

NOVELTY (N)

Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2) for novelty. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose a container and a method of hot filling such a container, said container having a seal or a cap including an opening or an aperture, through which at least one fluid is introduced under pressure to provide controlled raising of internal pressure within the container headspace after sealing under pressure, as currently claimed.

INVENTIVE STEP (IS)

Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(3) with regard to the requirement of Inventive Step because the prior art does not obviously suggest to a person skilled in the art a container and a method of hot filling such a container, characterised by providing a seal or a cap having an opening or an aperture, through which at least one fluid is introduced under pressure to provide controlled raising of internal pressure within the container headspace after said opening or aperture is sealed under pressure, as currently claimed.

The claimed invention is not obvious in the light of any of the cited documents nor is it disclosed in any obvious combination of them. It is also considered that it would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge either by itself or in combination with any of these documents.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY (IA)

The invention defined in the claims is considered to meet the requirements of Industrial Applicability under Article 33(4) of the PCT because it can be made by, or used in, industry.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/NZ2009/000079

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
Claims 10, 17 do not comply with Rule 6.2(a) because they rely on references to the description and/or drawings.

It is a further object of one possible embodiment of the present invention to provide a headspace modification method whereby sterile or heated liquid, or air, or some other gas or combination thereof, is charged into the headspace under sterile conditions to create a positive pressure in order to negate the effect of vacuum pressure created during cooling of the product.

It is a further object of one possible embodiment of the present invention to provide a headspace modification method whereby sterile air, or some other gas or liquid or combination thereof, is charged into the headspace under sealed pressure to negate the effect of vacuum pressure created during cooling of the product.

It is a further object of one possible embodiment of the present invention to provide a headspace modification method whereby a compressive seal is applied to the neck finish of the container.

It is a further object of one possible embodiment of the present invention to provide a headspace displacement method whereby a compressive seal is applied to the neck finish that is forcibly displaceable into the container prior to cooling the liquid contents, such that a positive pressure may be induced into the container.

A further and alternative object of the present invention in all its embodiments, all the objects to be read disjunctively, is to at least provide the public with a useful choice.

Summary Of The Invention

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a container having a seal or cap including, or adapted to provide, an opening or aperture into said container, said aperture providing, in use, for the introduction under pressure of at least one fluid, said opening or aperture also being sealable under pressure, in use, to provide an increase of internal pressure within the container.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a container having a seal or cap temporarily applied such that an opening or aperture into said container is provided by an incomplete seal being formed between the cap and a neck finish of the container, said opening or aperture providing for the introduction under pressure of at least one fluid, said

opening or aperture also being sealable under compression to provide a controlled raising of internal pressure within the container prior to cooling of heated contents within the container.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a container having a seal or cap providing a temporary seal immediately post-filling and having an aperture or opening, said aperture or opening being accessible under substantially sterile conditions to provide for the introduction of at least one heated and/or sterile fluid, said aperture or opening also further being sealable under substantially sterile conditions to provide a controlled raising of internal pressure within the container following cooling of heated contents within the container.

According to a further aspect of the invention a method of filling a container with a fluid includes introducing the fluid through an open end of the container so that it, at least substantially, fills the container, heating the fluid before or after its introduction into the container, providing a seal or cap having an opening or aperture, providing at least one fluid through the opening or aperture and sealing the opening or aperture under pressure, so as to compensate for subsequent pressure reduction in a headspace of the container under the seal or cap following the cooling of the heated contents.

According to a further aspect of the invention a method of filling a container with a fluid includes introducing the fluid through an open end of the container so that it, at least substantially, fills the container, heating the fluid before or after its introduction into the container, providing a seal or cap having an opening or aperture, said opening or aperture being initially sealed, providing for the heated contents to cool, further providing a method of subsequently accessing the opening or aperture and injecting at least one fluid through the opening or aperture and sealing the aperture, so as to compensate for the pressure reduction in the headspace of the container following the cooling of the heated contents.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a container having an upper portion with an opening into said container, said upper portion having a neck finish adapted to include, subsequent to the introduction of a heated or heatable liquid into the container, a seal, said seal being inwardly compressible or mechanically moveable before or after the liquid is heated, so as to increase the pressure of the headspace.

According to a further aspect of the invention a method of filling a container with a fluid includes introducing the fluid through an open end of the container so that it, at least

CLAIMS:

1. A container having a seal or cap including, or adapted to provide, an opening or aperture into said container, said opening or aperture providing, in use, for the introduction under pressure of at least one fluid, said opening or aperture also being sealable, under pressure, in use, to provide an increased internal pressure within the container.
2. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one fluid is introduced under pressure and said opening or aperture is sealable under compression.
3. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein said seal or cap is temporarily applied such that said opening or aperture is provided by an incomplete seal being formed between the seal or cap and a neck finish of the container.
4. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said seal or cap provides a temporary sealing means after filling of the container, said opening or aperture being accessible under substantially sterile conditions to provide for the introduction of said at least one fluid.
5. A container as claimed in claim 4 wherein said at least one fluid is heated and/or sterile and said opening or aperture is further adapted to be sealable under substantially sterile conditions to provide said controlled raising of internal pressure.
6. A container as claimed in claim 1 in which said at least one fluid is a heated liquid or a gas injected through said opening or aperture.
7. A container as claimed in claim 6 in which said opening or aperture is adapted to be permanently closed following the injection of said liquid or gas.
8. A container as claimed in claim 1 in which said cap is compressible within a neck of the container towards its interior.
9. A container as claimed in claim 1 in which said opening or aperture includes a valve means which is operable to open and close said opening or aperture.
10. A container substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments of the invention as shown in any one or more of the accompanying drawings, excluding Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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11. A method of filling a container with a fluid including introducing the fluid through an open end of the container so that it, at least substantially, fills the container, heating the fluid before or after its introduction into the container, providing a seal or cap having an opening or aperture, providing at least one fluid through the opening or aperture and sealing the opening or aperture under pressure so as to compensate for subsequent pressure reduction in a headspace of the container under the seal or cap following the cooling of the heated contents.
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12. A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the at least one fluid passes through the opening or aperture under pressure.
13. A method as claimed in claim 12 in which the container is positioned in a pressurizing means.
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14. A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the container is positioned in a sterilizing means and the fluid is a heated liquid injected through the opening or aperture.
15. A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the opening or aperture is provided with a temporary or partial seal through which the at least one fluid is provided.
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16. A method as claimed in claim 11 in which a neck of the container is provided with a compressible cap which is moveable within the neck towards the heated contents before the heated contents have cooled.
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17. A method of filling a container with a fluid substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments of the invention substantially as herein described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings, excluding Figures 1, 2 and 3.
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18. A container filling apparatus for filling a container as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 10 or for performing the method of any one of claims 11 to 17.
19. A container when filled by the method of any one of claims 11 to 17 or the apparatus of claim 18.
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20. A cap for a container, the cap being adapted for use with the container of any one of claims 1 to 10 or the method of any one of claims 11 to 17 or the apparatus of claim 18.