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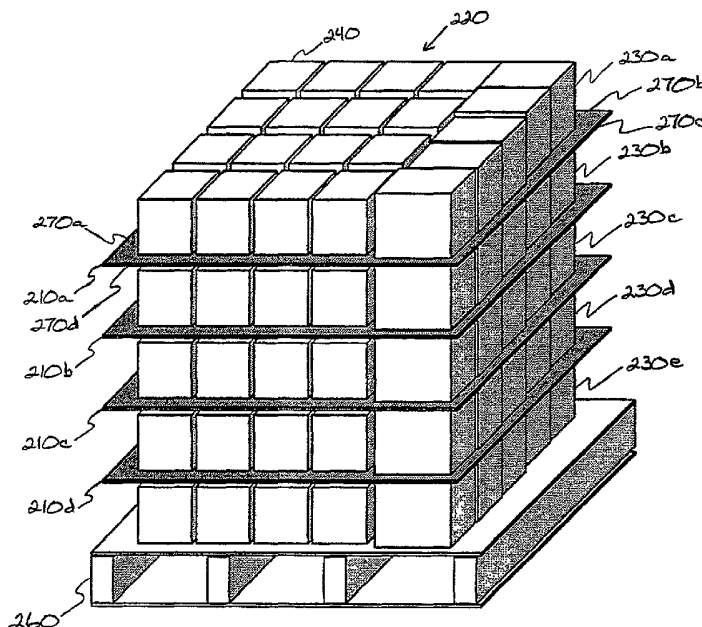
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a  
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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the  
earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR A RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) WAVEGUIDE FOR READING ITEMS IN A STACK



(57) Abstract: A method, system, and apparatus for reading RFID tags (100) in a stack (220) of objects is described. For example, a pallet may hold a stack of objects, with one or more of the objects coupled to a RFID tag. A RFID reader (114) may be used to read the tags in the stack. However, tagged objects in the middle of the stack may be difficult to read due to the RF signal loss passing through objects in the stack. A waveguide (210) may be used to guide radio waves to locations in the pallet stack. For example, the waveguide can replace a slipsheet that is conventionally placed between horizontal layers of cases in the pallet stack.

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
EAST

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,388,630 B1 (KRUGER et al) 14 May 2002 (14.05.2002), column 3, line 17-column 4, line 49.	1, 5-10, 16-23 ----- 2, 3
X --- Y	US 5,872,485 A (ISHIKAWA et al) 16 February 1999 (16.02.1999), ; column 4, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 8-38..	1, 4-23 ----- 2, 3

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See patent family annex.

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