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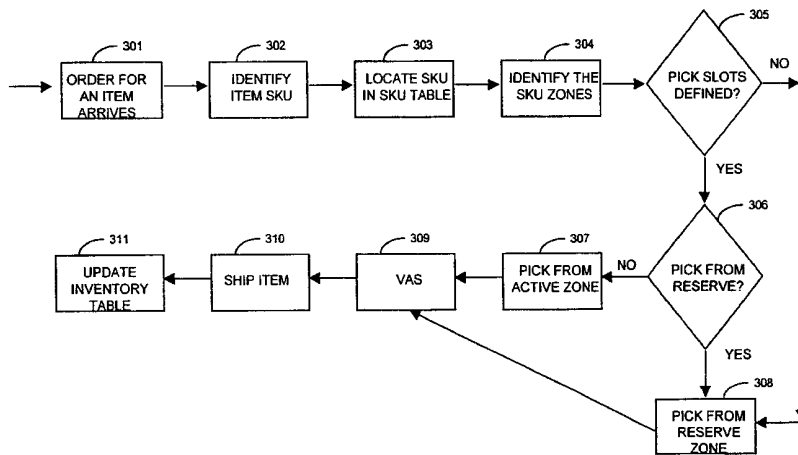
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DISTRIBUTION CENTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention is directed to a method for picking a product from a reserve area in a distribution center. One embodiment includes designating a zone in distribution center as a reserve zone and designating products as pick from reserve products. The method also includes determining whether an item in the distribution center is designated as a pick from reserve product. In another aspect, the invention is directed to a distribution center management system. The distribution center management system includes a configuration module, a product designation module, an inventory module, an

identification module and an assigning module. The configuration module designates a zone in a distribution center to be a reserve zone. The product designation module designates products as pick from reserve products. The inventory module catalogs received items. The identification module determines whether an item is a pick from reserve product. The retrieving module retrieves pick from reserve products from reserve zones. In one embodiment, the retrieving module includes a locator that locates the reserve zone in which an item is stored. A worker is then directed to the located reserve zone. In another aspect, the invention is directed to a computer-aided method for distributing items requiring a value added service in a distribution center. A zone within the distribution center is designated as a zone for providing the value added service. Inventory items required for providing the value added service are identified. Pickers are directed to pick these inventory items. These picked inventory items are collected in the designated zone, where the value added service is provided using the collected items. The finished item is shipped after the value added service has been completed. In another aspect, the present invention is directed to a method for displaying distribution center management system information on a graphical display. This graphical display provides a system operator with an overview of the distribution center's status by simultaneously displaying a plurality subwindows of information.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G06F17/60 B65G1/137

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B65G G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 395 206 A (CERNY, JR.) 7 March 1995 (1995-03-07)	1-17
Y	column 1, line 46 -column 2, line 30 column 3, line 23 -column 4, line 29 column 4, line 63 -column 55, line 34 column 8, line 42 -column 10, line 38 ---	18
Y	US 5 485 369 A (NICHOLLS ET AL) 16 January 1996 (1996-01-16) the whole document ---	18
A	US 5 600 565 A (WAGNER ET AL) 4 February 1997 (1997-02-04) the whole document -----	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5395206 A	07-03-1995	NONE	
US 5485369 A	16-01-1996	US 5631827 A	20-05-1997
US 5600565 A	04-02-1997	NONE	