**Examination RESULTS**

□ Examined Claims: Claims 1 to 15

□ Rejection:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | **Rejected Claims** | **Basis for Rejection** |
| I | All Claims | Article 29(2) of the Patent Act  [Lack of Inventive Step]\* |

**GROUND I**

**[Lack of Inventive Step]\***

The inventions defined in all the claims of the subject application could have been easily conceived by one of ordinary skill in the art prior to the filing of the subject application for the reasons set forth in the “Remarks” section below. Accordingly, the claimed invention cannot be patented pursuant to Article 29(2) of the Patent Act.

**REMARKS**

Cited Reference 1: US Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0165827 (June 19, 2014)

Cited Reference 2: Chinese Patent Publication No. 104747756 (July 1, 2015)

Cited Reference 3: Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei 08-014367 (January 16, 1996)

Cited Reference 4: US Patent No. 6,361,574 (March 26, 2002)

Cited Reference 5: International Patent Publication No. 2012/079116 (June 21, 2012)

**A. Independent Claim 1 (Cited References 1 and 2)**

Upon a comparison between Claim 1 of the subject application and Cited References 1 and 2, the features of ❶ a housing including at least one valve of first and second configurations; ❷ a plurality of first openings; ❸ a second opening; and ❹ a desiccant in Claim 1 of the subject application correspond to the features of the breathers for liquid reservoirs comprising ① a housing (112) coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) comprising a two-way check valve, ❷ a plurality of first openings (114) in communication with the housing (112), ❸ a second opening (116) in communication with the housing (112), and ❹ a desiccant (118) disposed inside the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1, and paragraphs [0016] and [0022])**.

With regard to Feature ①, there is a difference in terms of comprising a type of a two-way check valve and not a valve of first and second configurations. However, such difference could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the moving valve sheet (4) that rotates in **Cited Reference 2 (see Figs. 1 to 3)**, which pertains to the same technical field.

Accordingly, Claim 1 of the subject application lacks an inventive step over Cited References 1 and 2.

**B. Claim 2 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1, 2 and 3)**

The feature in Claim 2 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the breathing apparatus (A), which is applied to a crank case, in **Cited Reference 3 (see Fig. 2 and paragraph [0023])**.

**C. Claim 3 (which depends from Claim 2) (Cited References 1, 2 and 3)**

The feature in Claim 3 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the breathing apparatus (A) in **Cited Reference 3 (see Fig. 2 and paragraph [0023])**.

**D. Claim 4 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1 and 2)**

The feature in Claim 4 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**.

**E. Claim 5 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1 and 2)**

The feature in Claim 5 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**.

**F. Claim 6 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1 and 2)**

The feature in Claim 6 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**.

**G. Claim 7 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1, 2 and 4)**

The feature in Claim 7 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the ribs (17) protruding outwardly from the canister (14) in **Cited Reference 4 (see Fig. 2)**.

**H. Claim 8 (which depends from Claim 1) (Cited References 1, 2 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 8 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the lid portion (12) having a channel (13) formed therein to engage with the upper end of the body portion (14) in **Cited Reference 5 (see Figs. 4 and 5, and paragraph [0057])**.

**I. Claim 9 (which depends from Claim 8) (Cited References 1, 2 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 9 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature that the lid portion (12) is formed in the shape of a dome in **Cited Reference 5 (see Figs. 1 and 5)**.

**J. Independent Claim 10 (Cited References 1, 3 and 5)**

Upon a comparison between Claim 10 of the subject application and Cited References 1, 3 and 5, the features of ❶ a housing including a plurality of first openings and a plurality of vent plugs; ❷ a second opening; ❸ a desiccant; and ❹ a cap in Claim 10 of the subject application correspond to the features of the breathers for liquid reservoirs comprising ① a housing (112) having a plurality of first openings (114) in communication with air outside the breather and a check valve coupled to the first openings, ❷ a second opening (116) in communication with the housing (112), ❸ a desiccant (118) disposed inside the housing (112), and ④ a cap (146) coupled to the top of the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0016] and [0022])**.

With regard to Feature ①, there is a difference in terms of comprising a check valve and not plug and with regard to Feature ④, there is a difference in that there is no valley and no domed exterior surface in the cap. However, Feature ① could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the breathing apparatus (A) applied to a crank case in **Cited Reference 3 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0023])**, and Feature ④ could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the lid portion (12) having a channel (13) formed therein to engage with the upper end of the body portion (14) and having the shape of a dome in **Cited Reference 5 (see Figs. 4 and 5, and paragraphs [0057])**.

Accordingly, Claim 10 of the subject application lacks an inventive step over Cited References 1, 3 and 5.

**K. Claim 11 (which depends from Claim 10) (Cited References 1, 3 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 11 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the breathing apparatus (A) in **Cited Reference 3 (see Fig. 2 and paragraph [0023])**.

**L. Claim 12 (which depends from Claim 10) (Cited References 1, 3 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 12 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**.

**M. Claim 13 (which depends from Claim 10) (Cited References 1, 3 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 13 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in the housing (112) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**.

**N. Claim 14 (which depends from Claim 10) (Cited References 1, 3, 4 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 14 of the subject application could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the ribs (17) protruding outwardly from the canister (14) in **Cited Reference 4 (see Fig. 2)**.

**O. Claim 15 (which depends from Claim 10) (Cited References 1, 2, 3 and 5)**

The feature in Claim 15 of the subject application could have been easily derived from the check valve coupled to a plurality of first openings (114) in **Cited Reference 1 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0022])**. There is a difference in terms of comprising a type of a two-way check valve and not a valve of first and second configurations. However, such difference could have been easily derived by applying the feature of the moving valve sheet (4) that rotates in **Cited Reference 2 (see Figs. 1 to 3)**,

[Annexed Documents]

Attachment 1 US Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0165827 (June 19, 2014)

Attachment 2 Chinese Patent Publication No. 104747756 (July 1, 2015)

Attachment 3 Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei 08-014367 (January 16, 1996)

Attachment 4 US Patent No. 6,361,574 (March 26, 2002)

Attachment 5 International Patent Publication No. 2012/079116 (June 21, 2012)

This 16th day of January, 2025

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\* “[ ]” not in original; inserted by translator.