

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

**TRANSLATION**

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

**PCT**

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	<b>10.10.2017</b>
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Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>2017P00230WO</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. <b>PCT/JP2017/026549</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>21.07.2017</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>25.08.2016</b>
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
**F16F15/08 (2006.01) i, B60K5/12 (2006.01) i, F16F7/00 (2006.01) i, F16F7/12 (2006.01) i**

Applicant  
**BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION**

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- 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 Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or 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

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Date of completion of this opinion	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/JP2017/026549

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - 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 (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2.  This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3.  With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing:
  - a.  forming part of the international application as filed:
    - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
    - on paper or in the form of an image file.
  - b.  furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13ter.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
  - c.  furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
    - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13ter.1(a)).
    - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13ter.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
4.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

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<b>Box No. V</b>	<b>Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</b>
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1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	3	YES
	Claims	1-2	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	3	YES
	Claims	1-2	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-3	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:	
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Document 1: JP 2012-197876 A (BRIDGESTONE CORP.) 18 October 2012, paragraphs [0023]-[0038], fig. 1-4 & US 2013/0320181 A1, paragraphs [0028]-[0043], fig. 1-4 & WO 2012/128328 A1 & EP 2690309 A1 & CN 103348161 A

The invention as in claims 1-2 lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the ISR.

(1) Claim 1

Document 1 discloses a "torque rod" comprising a "first annular section (first ring section 21)," a "second annular section (second ring section 22)," a "coupling stay section," and a "protruding section" that protrudes from the "first annular section" in the axial direction.

Furthermore, a "hollow portion" in which a portion of the "first annular section" is exposed is formed in the "torque rod" in the invention disclosed in document 1.

Moreover, the "wall section" (the inner surface of

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**Box No. V** Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

the hollow portion) that forms the "hollow portion" is continuous with the "first annular section" and the "coupling stay section."

Such being the case, the invention as in claim 1 is disclosed in document 1.

Claim 2

In the invention disclosed in document 1, the "wall section" (the inner surface of the hollow portion) of the "hollow portion" is also disposed on the opposite side to the "protruding section" with respect to the axial center position of the "first annular section."

Such being the case, the invention as in claim 2 is disclosed in document 1.

The invention as in claim 3 is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the ISR, and would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

In particular, none of the documents discloses the configuration wherein the "hollow portion" does not pass through the "first annular section" in the axial direction.