

tear strip extending around the assembly and over said spacing void, and said lower panel, being suitable for attachment to the container, extending around said side walls of the container, and

[0016] b) means for attaching the label to the container and cap assembly,

[0017] wherein tampering with or removing said tear strip from the assembly by way of pulling an end tab, removing or repositioning the cap from the container causes the perforated lines of the tear strip to wrinkle or rupture separating the upper and lower panels of the assembly along the tear strip, wherein the tabs of the upper panel remain attached to the cap and the lower panel remains attached to the container, and wherein wrinkle or rupture of the label serves as visible and physical evidence of opening of said assembly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] The tamper-evident label of the present invention will become more apparent from the ensuing description when considered together with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numbers denote like components, wherein:

[0019] FIG. 1 is a perspective view in elevation of a container and cap assembly having the label of the invention attached thereto;

[0020] FIG. 2 is a front view in elevation of the flat label;

[0021] FIG. 3 is a back view in elevation of the flat label; and

[0022] FIG. 4 is a perspective view in elevation of a container and cap assembly having the label of the invention attached thereto illustrating the tear strip being removed from the label.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0023] The present invention is directed to a novel, tamper-evident label. That is, if the container and cap assembly to which the label is adhered is opened or has been tampered with, the label will show signs of wrinkling or breakage along the tear strip. The label is designed to fit at least about half way around the container and cap assembly to which it is adhered. The label may be better understood by reviewing the figures attached herewith.

[0024] FIG. 1 provides a perspective view of a container and cap assembly typical for marketing pharmaceutical and over-the-counter products having the tamper-evident label of the present invention attached thereto. Container and cap assembly 1 is typically fabricated from thermoplastic, glass, metal, a combination thereof, and the like. Container 2, typically, exhibits a rectangular, polygon, elliptical or oval shape. Cap 3, typically, exhibits an identical or complimentary shape to the container, and will be have a twist- or screw-off design. Tamper-evident label 4, fabricated from thermoplastic, metal foil, paper, the like, and combinations thereof, raps around the container and cap assembly and is held thereto by an adhesive or other means known to those skilled in the art.

[0025] FIG. 2 provides a front view of flattened label 4 not attached to a container and cap assembly. Label 4 can be

defined as having lower panel 5, attached to the container-portion of the assembly, and upper panel 6 is attached to the cap-portion of the assembly, wherein the two panels are divided by tear strip 7. Lower panel 5 and upper panel 6 are suitable for containing indicia of identification, use and safety instructions for the product contained within the assembly. Upper panel 6 can be further characterized as 1 or more tabs, typically, at least 2 tabs, and preferably, at least 2 opposing tabs when the label is attached to the container and cap assembly. The upper and lower panels of the label are separated by tear strip 7. Tear strip 7 is defined by two parallel, perforated lines 8 that divide the lower and upper panels. On opposite ends of tear strip 7 are pull-tabs 9.

[0026] Referring to FIG. 3, there is illustrated the back of flatten label 4 (not attached to a container and cap assembly). Tear strip 7 typically contains reinforcement means such as a fibrous filament, plastic or metal strip, or other reinforcement means and/or theft detection material known in the art. The reinforcement means will typically attach to the strip and run from end to end of the strip, parallel between the perforations. The back of tear strip 7 may be of a contrasting color to the front of the strip. When tear strip 7 is removed from the label of tampered with, it breaks or wrinkles the perforated lines to separate the strip from the lower and upper panels of the label without the tear strip segmenting prior to complete removal thereof. The tear strip also evidence wrinkling when the relative position of the container and cap is changed between manufacture and sale, wherein tampering is visibly and physically evident. An adhesive means, generally consisting of glue may be placed on the back of the label for adhesion of the label to the container and cap assembly.

[0027] FIG. 4 provides a perspective view of container and cap assembly 1 having label 4 attached thereto wherein tear strip 7 is being removed by a user. Grabbing the tear strip at pull-tab 9 (not shown), the user may remove the strip in one-piece by a continuous pulling thereof to expose the spacing void between the container and cap. Thereafter, the cap may be removed to expose the month of the container for release of the product within the container.

[0028] A preferred embodiment of the invention is directed to a tamper-evident label suitable for attaching to a glass, thermoplastic, metal and the like container and cap assemblies, wherein the cap being removably attached to the container, said container having a bottom, side walls, a mouth, and top edge adjacent to the mouth, said cap having a top, side wall, and bottom edge adjacent to the mount of the container, wherein a spacing void exists between the walls of the container and cap, the label characterized as:

[0029] a) a planar paper sheet having a tear strip defined by two parallel perforated lines there through defining upper and lower panels, the tear strip overlaying the void between the container and cap assembly walls, extending over the top edge of the container and the bottom edge of the cap, said tear strip having pull tabs on opposite ends thereof and a reinforcing strand incorporated therein, said upper panel, being suitable for attachment to the cap, having at least two tabs extending over the side walls of said cap, said tear strip extending around the assembly and over said spacing void, and said lower