INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE
THE THIRD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION HELD IN NOV 2003
GUIDELINES TO PAPER B
Notice: The guidelines below contains some points (not-exhaustive) that could be covered in the answer to this Paper.

1. Task: Prepare a draft reply to the Written Opinion to the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS).

2. The suggested guidelines are as follows.

Possible amendments

The inclusion in claim 1 of the feature that the sealing member is biased from underneath into the open position. (Basis on page 2, lines 2-4 for drawings)

This will require consequential amendments of claim 2. If in the spring which biases the sealing member into the open position (basis page 2, lines 2 – 4).

Claim 3 can remain or be amended to state that movement against the spring bias is obtained by application of pressure to the top of the plug or sealing member. (Basis on page 2, lines 4 – 5)

Other features that could usefully be claimed:
Plug can be latched on the closed position. (Basis on page 2, lines 7-8)

Pressure on top of plug when in latched position unlatches the plug. (Basis on page 2, lines 9-10)

To overcome written opinion

Novelty

GB Patent 2243077
Two possibilities need to be considered
1. Closure of waste is not shown.
2. Closure of overflow waste illustrated in fig 1.

1. Sealing member/plug is biased to open position by wire from spring loaded reel which acts as the top of the plug to pull plug onto the support plate.

2. Sealing member/plug is biased into closed position over the overflow 8.

Bathroom News
Sealing member is not biased into open (or closed) position.

Invention Step

There is nothing in the prior art to suggest biasing the plug from below into an open position. The advantage of the invention is that closing (and opening) the plug is effected from above and is easy for the disabled to use.