-9-

Claims

1.   A system for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device, comprising at least temporarily a programmable device and programming means, characterized in that the system at least temporarily also comprises reading means which are designed for receiving an electronically readable information carrier comprising a programmable memory capable of containing a numerical value.

2.   A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the programmable device comprises the programming means and the reading means.

3.   A system as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the programmable device is an automatic payment machine.

4.   A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the programmable device is coupled at least temporarily to separate programming means, which programming means comprise the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable information carrier.

5.   A system as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that the programmable device is a timer.

6.   A method of selectively activating one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device whereby at least one function is selected and activated, characterized in that the programmable device is at least temporarily coupled to programming means which are coupled to reading means, and in that the reading means cooperate with an electronically readable information carrier on which a value is stored, while after the activation of a function a corresponding value is debited.