

NEWS RELEASE

新闻通稿

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I4F updates market on positive developments for Halstead/Home Depot in the Välinge court case

I4F 就 Halstead/Home Depot 在同 Valinge 官司中取得的有利进展通报如下

- *Halstead/Home Depot file counterclaim against Välinge for inequitable conduct*
- *Halstead/Home Depot 就 Valinge 的不当行为提起反诉*
- *Filing cites breaches of duty of candor and good faith by Välinge*
- *反诉中提及 Valinge 有违公正诚信责任*

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today shared details relating to developments favouring Halstead New England Corp. and Home Depot USA, Inc. in the court case brought against them by Välinge.

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F,一家专注地板行业专利和技术解决方案的集团公司,今天分享了在 Valinge 诉 Halstead New England Corp. 和 Home Depot USA, Inc. 案子中,有利于后两者的最新进展。

Recent case filings assert that three of Välinge's patents, as well as subsequent patents from the same family, are unenforceable on the basis of inequitable conduct. It is believed Välinge and its employees, including a named inventor, deliberately withheld important prior art documents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) during the application process. By doing so, Välinge breached the duty of candor and good faith owed to the USPTO, making the patents unenforceable. This development follows a decision by the court earlier this year which rendered four of Välinge's Mannington patents invalid as indefinite.

最近提起的反诉认为 Valigne 的三项专利及其同一专利家族的一项衍生专利基于其不正当行为已经无法执行。此反诉认定 Valinge 公司及其雇员,包括专利署名发明人,在申请专利时故意不向美国商标专利局 (USPTO) 提供重要的公知技术文件。这个做法使得 Valinge 违背了对 USPTO 的公正诚信责任,使得其相关专利不再有效。这是继今年早些时候法庭裁定 Valinge 持有的四项 Mannington 专利因为界定模糊而无效的又一重要进展。

These new developments reinforce further I4F's belief that Välinge's case against Halstead/Home Depot is unjustifiable and merely aimed at keeping I4F's 3L TripleLock and Click4U systems out of the market. As a result, I4F is of the opinion that the case should be dismissed.

这个进展更加令 I4F 相信 Valinge 针对 Halstead/Home Depot 提起的诉讼是非正义的，其唯一目的就是想将 I4F 的 TripleLock 和 Click4U 锁扣系统排挤出市场。基于此，I4F 认为此案应予驳回。

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About I4F:

I4F is an innovations group focused on the development of patents and technologies for the flooring industry. Its portfolio includes IP for flooring installation and wall mounting systems, material compositions, surface treatment as well as laminate and board production technologies. I4F has strategic partnerships with the industry's most important IP players, including Classen, Kronospan, UWC and Kowon. The company's flagship technologies, 3L TripleLock and Click4U, provide a unique one piece drop-lock installation technique for flooring panels that eliminates the need for an additional insert on the short side. The solution is suitable for laminate, luxury vinyl tiles, wood plastic composite, rigid core flooring, multi-layer flooring and wooden flooring panels. International patents and patent applications for I4F's technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide.

I4F 是一家致力于地板行业专利和技术研发的高新技术集团，其专利组合包括地板安装和墙式安装的知识产权，材料成分，地面处理以及层压板生产技术。I4F 与行业内顶级的知识产权大咖 Classen, Kronospan, UWC 及 Kowon 建有战略合作关系。公司的旗舰技术 3L 锁扣技术和 Click4U 锁扣技术为地板安装提供了独一无二的整体式直落锁扣安装技术，从而减少了短边安装有额外插入的需要。该技术适用于复合地板、豪华乙烯基砖、木塑复合地板、刚性地板，多层地板和实木地板，I4F 已经在全球 100 多个国家为其相关技术申请了专利保护。

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