



PATENTS & TECHNOLOGIES

NEWS RELEASE

新闻通稿

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I4F demands the withdrawal of a wrongful allegation by Välinge

I4F 要求 Välinge 撤回错误指控

- ***No link between Välinge's German court case based on EP'665 and I4F's 3L TripleLock technology***
- ***Välinge 在德国基于专利 EP'665 的诉讼与 I4F 的 3L TripleLock 技术无关***
- ***Mannington patents already declared non-enforceable in the US***
- ***相关的 Mannington 美国专利已经无效***
- ***EP'665 likely to expire before final decision***
- ***EP'665 可能在法庭有结论前已经过期***

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today announced that it has requested Välinge's withdrawal of a wrongful allegation outlined in Välinge's press release dated December 11, 2018. I4F clarified that no specific link exists between I4F's technology, 3L TripleLock, and the German part of Välinge's Mannington patent EP 2 248 665 (EP'665) subject to the German court filing against Belgian distributor, Oneflor Europe.

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，今日宣布其已经要求 Välinge 撤回其在 2018 年 12 月 11 日新闻稿中的错误指控。Välinge 在德国用于攻击比利时经销商 Oneflor Europe 时用到的是其 Mannington 专利的德国部分 EP 2 248 665 (EP' 665)。I4F 明确表示此专利同 I4F 的 3L TripleLock 技术无关。

Furthermore, I4F is of the opinion that the Mannington patent referred to in Välinge's filing is invalid. This opinion is based on the fact Välinge lost the right to enforce four US counterparts of EP'665 in the United States in May 2018. Despite earlier proceedings before the European Patent Office, patent EP'665 is also currently under scrutiny as part of invalidation proceedings initiated by I4F before the Federal Patent Court in Munich, Germany. Additionally, patent EP'665 is at the end of its lifetime and will expire in 2020.

I4F 同时认为，Välinge 此次利用的 Mannington 专利是无效的。这个观点基于 Välinge 已经在 2018 年 5 月失去了执行 EP' 665 对应的 4 项美国专利的权利。除了之前在欧洲专利局的无效程序，专利 EP' 665 目前由于 I4F 在德国慕尼黑联邦专利法庭提起的无效程序正在受到进一步审查。此外，此项专利已经在生命周期的尾声，并将于 2020 年到期。

The company said, "Yet again, we are unfortunately forced to react to inaccurate and misleading public statements from Välinge. We see absolutely no link between this court case and I4F's 3L TripleLock technology. We consider this false allegation as anti-competitive and yet another desperate attempt from Välinge to damage I4F's rapidly growing position in the global flooring industry. We are confident that the Oneflor product, using UWC Windmüller patents represented by I4F, does not infringe on Välinge's soon to expire EP'665 patent."

公司表示，“再一次，我们不得不对 Välinge 做出的不准确和误导性的宣传做出反击。我们认为这个诉讼和 I4F 的 3L TripleLock 技术没有任何相关。这个虚假陈述是违反公平竞争的，是 Välinge 为了阻碍 I4F 在全球地板行业地位快速提升的又一次无奈反扑。我们坚信，使用 I4F 代表的 UWC Windmüller 专利的 Oneflor 的地板产品，不侵犯 Välinge 即将过期的 EP' 665 专利。

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About I4F/关于 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、豪华乙烯基瓷砖、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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