

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **US District Court of Delaware rules Välinge's Mannington Patents in the US are invalid, with immediate effect**

**美国 Delaware 地区法院判定 Valinge 持有的 Mannington 专利无效，立刻执行**

- **All Mannington patents removed from Halstead/Home Depot case**  
*所有 Mannington 专利都被从 Halstead/Home Depot 的案子中剔除*
- **Välinge effectively blocked from enforcing asserted Mannington patents in the US**  
*Valinge 无法继续在美国施行其持有的 Mannington 专利*
- **Claim construction ruling favours Halstead and Home Depot**  
*专利范围界定有利于 Halstead 和 Home Depot*

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today shared details relating to a significant decision on Välinge's asserted Mannington patents in the US. The United States Court for the District of Delaware ruled that four Mannington patents from Välinge are invalid in the US, with immediate effect. The Court made the ruling in a case brought by Välinge alleging infringement against Halstead and Home Depot.

Willemstad, Curacao- I4F, 一个致力于为地板行业提供专利和技术的集团公司，现在详细分享法庭有关 Valinge 在美国持有的 Mannington 专利的重大决定。美国 Delaware 地区法院判定 Valinge 的 4 项 Mannington 专利在美国无效，立即执行。法院是在 Valinge 诉 Halstead 和 Home Depot 的案子调查中做出上述判定的。

The Court specifically determined that the phrase “not susceptible to damage caused by moisture” which appears in every independent claim of the involved Mannington patents is indefinite. Consequently, each claim of every asserted Mannington patents is now invalid in the United States, regardless of the claim construction (also called “Markman” in the US) outcome on the other contested claim terms. The decision effectively prevents Välinge from enforcing these now invalidated Mannington patents in the US.

法庭特别指出在 Mannington 专利的每个独立权利要求中都提到的“对由潮湿引起的损害不敏感”的描述模糊不清。基于此，无论其他有争议的要求的最终专利界定范围（在美国又称“Markman”）的结果如何，Valinge 在美国持有的 Mannington 专利的所有要求现在已经无效了。这个判决使得 Valinge 无法在美国继续施行已被无效的 Mannington 专利。

Other than in the Mannington patents, the parties disputed only four other claim terms, where two disputes were decided in favor of Halstead and Home Depot. While Välinge will have the opportunity to appeal, I4F believes the Delaware Court's invalidity decision is correct and does not expect an appeals decision before the patents expire. In the meantime, the Mannington patents are invalid with immediate effect and are expected to remain invalid, even after appeal.

除去 Mannington 专利外，各方争执的只有 4 项权利要求了，其中的 2 项已判定对 Halstead 和 Home Depot 有利。尽管 Valinge 仍然可以上诉，但是 I4F 认为 Delaware 法院做出的决定是正确的并且认为在该专利过期前上诉不可能有结果。Mannington 专利现在已经无效了，并将保持无效，即使上诉也是如此。

Additionally, in Europe, I4F has filed a nullity action based on prior art in Germany against Mannington patent EP'665, a European patent in the invalidated U.S. Mannington patent family.

此外，I4F 已经在德国根据已知技术申请无效 Mannington 的 EP'665 专利，这是已经被无效的 Mannington 美国专利族的一个欧洲专利。

## ends ##

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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 锁扣系统和 Click4U 技术为地板安装提供了独一无二的整体下压式安装技术，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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