

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

I4F files major infringement lawsuit in the United States against Carpet Express and Beauflor on luxury vinyl “Boardwalk” branded products

- *I4F claims Beauflor’s luxury vinyl plank products using Välinge’s 5Gi system infringe one of its 3L TripleLock Patents, US 10,053,868*

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today announced that it has filed a patent infringement lawsuit against US retailer Carpet Express and Beauflor US, LLC, a subsidiary of Beaulieu International Group Inc., for the wrongful manufacturing, using, importing and selling of luxury vinyl planks flooring products using Välinge’s 5Gi locking system in the United States. I4F filed the case before the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

I4F’s allegations are based on compelling evidence that the Beauflor Boardwalk collection of vinyl plank products, using Välinge’s 5Gi locking system, are in clear infringement of one of its 3L TripleLock patents in the United States, US ’868.

I4F provides licensees with IP expertise, meaningful patents and cutting-edge technologies as well as access to some of the global flooring industry’s best innovations, including 3L TripleLock and Click4U. Patents for I4F’s technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide. Its patent strategy is designed to provide its licensees with flexibility as well as a strong and broad scope of patent protection in relation to its 3L TripleLock and its other technologies.

The company said it would continue to undertake the appropriate legal action against all infringements and do everything in its power to safeguard its patents, technologies and licensees around the world.

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Contact:

Gilliane Palmer

+31 6 4189 9515

gilliane@innovations4flooring.com

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.

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