

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

I4F, Beauflor and Carpet Express settle US infringement lawsuit on luxury vinyl “Boardwalk” branded products out of court

- ***Beauflor signing non-assert agreement with I4F for U.S. Patent No. 10,053,868 on Boardwalk luxury vinyl plank products using 5Gi system in the US***

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today announced the settlement of a patent infringement lawsuit it filed in the United States against US retailer Carpet Express and Beauflor USA, LLC. I4F’s filing related to the Beauflor Boardwalk collection of luxury vinyl plank products, using Välinge’s 5Gi locking system, which I4F alleged was in clear infringement of US 10,053,868.

As part of the settlement, Beauflor **is signing a non-assertion agreement with I4F for one patent of its 3L TripleLock technology in the US in relation to the 5Gi technology.** In addition, all boxes containing Beauflor Boardwalk luxury vinyl plank products using 5Gi locking being imported or sold in the US will be marked with I4F’s patent number US’ 868.

John Rietveldt, I4F’s CEO, says, “We are pleased that we have been able to arrive at this swift settlement with Beauflor. I4F continues to do everything in its power to safeguard its licensees, patents and technologies around the world by implementing a patent strategy providing licensees with transparency and flexibility as well as a strong and broad scope of patent protection.”

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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.

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