

NEWS RELEASE 新闻通稿

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I4F to file IPR petition at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board in the US Patent & Trademark Office to nullify Unilin's U.S. Patent '460

I4F向美国专利商标局专利审判和上诉委员会提交多方审查程序申请，以取消Unilin的460美国专利

- *I4F takes action to protect licensees against unwarranted litigation from Mohawk/Unilin*
I4F采取行动保护被许可人免受Mohawk / Unilin的无理诉讼
- *U.S. Patent '460 is asserted by Mohawk/Unilin in their recent ITC complaint*
Mohawk / Unilin在其最近的ITC投诉中引用了美国专利'460
- *I4F preparing further actions to protect its licensees and freedom of choice*
I4F正准备进一步行动以保护其被许可人的利益和自由选择的权利

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, announced that today it will file an inter partes review (IPR) petition at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) in the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to nullify Unilin's U.S. Patent No. 9,200,460. I4F will demonstrate that Unilin's '460 patent is invalid in view of prior art showing that the claimed features were known in the flooring industry well before the date upon which the '460 patent was filed.

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，今天宣布，其将在美国专利商标局（USPTO）的专利审判和上诉委员会（PTAB）提交多方审查程序（IPR）申请，以取消Unilin第9,200,460号的美国专利。I4F将证明Unilin 460专利为无效专利，因为在先技术表明在460专利提交日期之前所声称的专利特征已在地板工业中众所周知。

It is expected that the PTAB will render a decision on whether to institute the IPR within the next six months. A final written decision is expected to be issued by the PTAB no later than twelve months after the decision to institute the IPR.

预计PTAB专利审判和上诉委员会将在未来六个月内签发书面决定明确是否启动多方审查程序。PTAB决定启动多方审查程序后，预计不超过十二个月会签发最终官方书面决定。

Mohawk/Unilin are asserting the '460 patent against dozens of Chinese manufacturers and exporters, as well as many US importers and distributors, in connection with an ITC complaint they recently submitted to the US International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. Many of the accused manufacturers are Unilin's own licensees.

Mohawk / Unilin在最近提交给位于华盛顿特区的美国国际贸易委员会的ITC投诉中，主张数十家中国制造商和出口商以及许多美国进口商和分销商违反了460号专利，而在被投诉的生厂商中，有许多是Unilin公司自己的被许可人。

I4F believes that the invalidation of the '460 patent, in combination with the expected successful defense of the ITC action, will free the flooring industry from unjustified royalties and trade barriers. I4F is also preparing a series of actions to further protect its licensees.

I4F相信，460号专利一旦失效，加上目前可期的成功应诉和答辩ITC行动，将会使整个地板行业摆脱不合理的特许权使用费和贸易壁垒。I4F正在精心准备接下来的一系列行动，以进一步维护其被许可人的利益。

I4F says, "Unilin's patents have been imposed on the flooring industry for far too long, and their invalidation will positively impact the industry's ability to choose the technology they, and their customers, prefer. We are confident that our licensees and customers are protected against these claims, and will continue to do everything in our power, to preserve freedom of choice for global flooring manufacturers. The removal of the fear management approach being adopted by Unilin is long overdue."

I4F说：“Unilin的专利已经被强行施加给地板行业太久了，这些“霸权专利”一旦被无效将赋予地板行业和其客户极大的空间和自由来选择更喜欢的技术。我们相信，我们的被许可人和客户可以免受这些索赔的侵害，我们将继续竭尽所能，守护全球地板制造商的自由选择权利。Unilin依靠采用恐惧施压管理的这套陈词滥调的方法早就应该被淘汰和取消了。”

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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, CFL Flooring, 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, expanded polymer core, solid polymer core and wooden flooring panels. International patents and patent applications for I4F's technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide. [Visit I4F.com](http://www.i4f.com)

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板安装，材料配比，表面处理，强化地板以及板材生产技术的知识产权。I4F与行业内顶级的知识产权领导者 Classen, Kronospan, CFL Flooring, 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系统，短边安装不再需要额外的塑料插条。该技术适用于强化地板、LVT、WPC、SPC、多层实木地板和实木地板，I4F已经在全球100多个国家为其相关技术申请了专利保护。