

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

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 takes action to protect licensees against unwarranted litigation from Mohawk/Unilin*
- *U.S. Patent '460 is asserted by Mohawk/Unilin in their recent ITC complaint*
- *I4F preparing further actions to protect its licensees and freedom of choice*

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.

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.

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.

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 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."

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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, 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://i4f.com)