



PATENTS & TECHNOLOGIES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

i4F and Happy Feet settle potential US lawsuit out of court on rigid vinyl SPC “Stone Elegance” branded products

- *Unlicensed products using i4F drop-lock technologies exposed as part of its US sweep program*
- *Happy Feet commits to labeling all products using i4F technologies with L2C holographic labels*
- *i4F further strengthens patent protection for licensees and partners via vigorous enforcement*

HAMONT, BELGIUM – i4F®, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today announced an out of court settlement following i4F’s complaint with a view to civil action served on US distributor Happy Feet International. The parties settled for an undisclosed amount, and a commitment from Happy Feet ensuring that all future products using i4F locking technologies will feature an L2C holographic label.

i4F discovered the unlicensed products as part of its on-going enforcement program designed to ensure all i4F technologies, including 3L Triplelock and Click4U, as well as those it represents on behalf of its partners, are not infringed upon, or used without the appropriate license agreement. This on-going enforcement program also ensures that i4F licensees remain first in line with accessibility to the most advanced industry innovations.

During its US-wide retailer/distributor sweep, i4F discovered the “Stone Elegance” collection of rigid vinyl SPC panels, produced by Wonderful Flooring, was on sale in Brookside Lumber Store without the required license. In March 2021, i4F notified Happy Feet that it was aware that Happy Feet was distributing Stone Elegance products using i4F’s proprietary locking technologies not carrying the i4F label.

The out of court settlement has avoided further litigation. 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, a strong and broad scope of patent protection as well as vigorous enforcement.

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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, digital printing as well as laminate and board production technologies. i4F has strategic partnerships with the industry's most important IP players, including Classen, Kronospan, HMTX, Windmüller, CFL Flooring, Tarkett, Kingdom Flooring, Lico, Benchwick, QuickStyle Industries, Hymmen and Shaw Industries. 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.

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