



Press Release, January 11th 2010

Flexiteek is the Rightful Patent Owner

Issues have recently been raised, especially in the UK, over the ownership of the patented synthetic decking products. There are strong indications that UK based Derek Whitaker on several occasions has attempted to put our name into discredit by false accusations, slander, and misrepresentation. This is reported to have taken place at the latest during the 2010 London Boat Show.

Flexiteek International AS, a Norway registered company, purchased and duly paid for all rights to the Flexiteek marine decking products; production equipment, recipes, trade marks, patents and patents pending. This transaction took place with the inventor, Derek Whitaker by an agreement duly signed on March 7th 2000.

On March 30th 2001 Stockholm City Court in Sweden ruled to confirm our rights to this patent ownership. This court ruling was never challenged by Derek Whitaker.

The District Court of South Florida in Fort Lauderdale made rulings of law in June 2009, which considerably strengthened the Flexiteek US Patent, derived from the European patents. The District Court ruled that Flexiteek International AS was the owner of the US Patent, and that the US Patent was valid. Flexiteek's main competitors, Tek-Dek, LTD. and PlasDECK, Inc. had (presumably based on input from Derek Whitaker) been taking the position that Flexiteek was not the owner of the US Patent and that it was invalid. The District Court's rulings demonstrated that the position taken by these infringing competitors lacked merit.

Flexiteek International is conscious that strong competition and interest for new and more environmentally friendly decking products are positive for the marine market. It is however imperative that formally established patents and trade marks are adhered to and respected.

Patents require a long term effort with considerable use of resources, and we will not accept the misrepresentation towards Flexiteek undertaken by the aforementioned individual and companies in this respect.

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