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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALTRO LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Works Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1NW (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **HALL, Barry, Peter** [GB/GB]; 17 Bishops Way, Great Paxton, Huntingdon PE19 6YN (GB).

(74) Agent: **PEEL, James, P.**; Barker Brettell, 10-12 Priests Bridge, London SW15 5JE (GB).

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(54) Title: FLOOR COVERING

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a plastics floor covering with enhanced slip resistance having improved stain resistance without affecting the effectiveness of the life of non-slip properties. The floor covering is non-laminated and includes a first layer of plastics material having an upper surface and a first particulate material embedded in the layer of plastics material and exposed at the upper surface to provide slip resistance, wherein the layer of plastics material is substantially free from a plasticiser.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 D06N7/00				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 D06N				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 5 787 655 A (SAYLOR JR EDWARD T) 4 August 1998 (1998-08-04) column 1, line 10 - line 13; claims; figures 1,2 column 3, last paragraph -column 4, line 59 column 5, line 52 -column 6, line 39 ---	1-6,8, 37,38		
X	WO 00 42274 A (MASTERS KAREN ALEXANDRA ;SHORTLAND ADRIAN JOHN (GB); ALTRO LTD (GB) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20) cited in the application	3-6,8, 10,11, 14,38-40		
Y	page 3, paragraph 1; claims; figure; examples	7,9,12		
A	page 7, last paragraph -page 8, line 2 --- -/--	1,2, 15-37		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. </td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.
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° Special categories of cited documents :				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">22 September 2003</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">29. 01. 04</p>			
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Pamies Olle, S</p>			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC B 03/02252

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y A	<p>WO 00 22225 A (MINETT MICHAEL GEOFFREY ;CROSBY CRAIG LEE (GB); ENTWISTLE ADRIAN L) 20 April 2000 (2000-04-20) cited in the application page 3, last paragraph -page 4, line 2; claims; figure page 10, last paragraph</p>	<p>3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 38-40 7, 9, 12 1, 2, 15-37</p>
X A	<p>WO 01 64997 A (HINAULT ROBERT ;JULIEN HERVE (FR); TARAFLEX (FR); BOUSSAND JACQUES) 7 September 2001 (2001-09-07) claims; figures; example</p>	<p>3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 38 1, 2, 15-37, 39, 40</p>
Y	<p>WO 97 09358 A (SOMMER SA ;ROUSSEL ALBERT (LU); SICHE ALEXANDRE (FR)) 13 March 1997 (1997-03-13) cited in the application page 11, line 18 - line 25; claims 1-6; example 2 & EP 0 847 406 A (...) 17 June 1998 (1998-06-17) cited in the application</p>	<p>7, 9, 12</p>
Y	<p>DE 44 27 085 A (TARKETT PEGULAN GMBH) 1 February 1996 (1996-02-01) claims 1,4; figure</p>	<p>7, 9, 12</p>
A	<p>WO 95 07178 A (SOMMER SA ;BASTIN PIERRE (BE); LACROIX POL (BE)) 16 March 1995 (1995-03-16) claims 1,4,6-9; examples 1,2</p>	<p>7, 9, 12</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/02252

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1. of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-40

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-40

Floor covering comprising a plastic layer with particulate material embedded in it and exposed at the upper surface to provide slip resistance and method of making it.

2. Claim : 41

Method of making a floor covering comprising a plastic layer including an ionomer.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC B 03/02252

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International Application No
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