

3M Press Release

November 2010

3M wins patent case against HTC Sweden AB for diamond floor pads

A landmark decision by the Board of Appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO) has seen the final dismissal of an appeal by HTC Sweden AB against a previous EPO decision to revoke HTC's European Patent for a method of maintaining floors with diamond floor pads.

As a result, HTC's patent has been fully revoked and no longer stands.

The first company in the world to commercially manufacture floor pads, diversified technology company 3M is a long-standing innovator in the area of diamond products and had opposed the original patent grant in 2007.

The EPO found in favour of 3M's opposition in 2009. The latest hearing followed HTC's appeal against that decision and found the invention was obvious and did not involve an inventive step.

The decision means that HTC's exclusive rights under European Patent EP 1 702 714 for a method for maintaining floors with diamond floor pads have ceased.

It also means that 3M can continue to sell Scotch-Brite Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus and Scotch-Brite Sienna Diamond Floor Pad Plus freely throughout Europe through its extensive distributor network.

These products are integral to 3M's extensive floor care portfolio, which through an extensive line-up of pads and other consumable products can cater for the cleaning and maintenance of a range of hard flooring types, including vinyl tile, stone, slate, marble, terrazzo and polished concrete.

Pads are available for every task from stripping, scrubbing, cleaning, buffing, burnishing, and scuff and mark removal, to glossing and finishing.

3M and Scotch-Brite are trademarks of 3M Company.

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3M – practical and ingenious solutions that help our customers succeed

3M is a \$23 billion diversified technology company which, since 1902, has been creating innovative products that help make the world healthier, safer and more productive. Well known 3M brands include Scotch, Post-it, Scotchgard^T, Thinsulate^T and Scotch-Brite^T.

3M employs some 75,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 65 countries. It produces tens of thousands of innovative products for customers in dozens of diverse markets and its 40+ technology platforms touch nearly every aspect of modern life. The company has applied its expertise in RFID (radio frequency identification) technology to map and locate underground utilities; it has used its understanding of the healthcare industry to develop innovations that help the early diagnosis of heart and lung conditions; and its range of pocket projectors are the ultimate presentation devices for business people on the go.

The UK and Ireland is home to one of the largest 3M subsidiaries outside the USA, employing more than 3,500 people across 17 locations, including 10 manufacturing sites.

Products manufactured in the UK include coated abrasives, occupational health and environmental safety equipment, adhesive tapes, industrial microbiology products, drug delivery systems, high-performance coatings, secure documents and passport scanners.

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