

Flooring in transport

Flooring in modes of transport needs to meet very tight specifications:

Desso flooring adorns three Freedom-class luxury liners, the world's largest passenger ships, operated by Royal Caribbean. The latest one is Independence of the Seas, for which Desso designed, produced and installed 40,000sq m of Colortec tufted carpet for the cabins and 30,000sq m of Axminster for public areas, corridors and suites.

To meet tight deadlines, Desso's production team was involved in meticulous planning and close liaison with Royal Caribbean's architects and contractors. The carpets are said to be hardwearing, essential for a ship carrying 3,634 passengers (double occupancy) meeting Royal Caribbean's exacting requirements.

To be eco-friendly, carpet wastage and seams were kept to a minimum. Operating out of Southampton, the 160,000 ton ship made its debut in May 2008.

Stef Kranendijk, CEO of Desso, comments: 'We can offer a complete package for the flooring of an entire vessel, anywhere in the world.'

He says the company's marine products all exceed the toughest requirements for international markets and marine regulations.

www.desso.com/businesscarpets

Invista Antron carpet fibre is used in carpets made by Vorwerk Teppichwerke for the 140mph Hitachi Class 395 trains to be used on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link between London St Pancras and Ashford, Kent. Inside these dual voltage trains are a bespoke version of Vorwerk's Varia Design Train cut-pile carpet in Antron carpet fibre.

Specified by Atlantic Design Transportation with a design by Brand Environment (UK), Varia Design Train will feature in all passenger areas when the trains go into operation next month.

Charles Greenway, Atlantic Design Transportation, comments: 'Varia Design Train carpets, already used by German rail companies, meets UK regulations. The carpet also allows us to provide the new trains with a carpet that retains its appearance, thanks to its cut-pile construction and Antron fibre, and is also easily cleaned.'

Antron carpet fibre's trilobal cross-section is claimed to help minimise the appearance of soiling. The bespoke two tone grey design

Flooring ahoy!



ABOVE: Desso carpet onboard Independence of the Seas, one of the world's biggest cruise liners

BELOW: Vorwerk Varia Design Train carpet on one of the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link coaches



also helps reduce the appearance of dirt even further while reflecting the operator's corporate identity. Its tighter molecular structure is said to resist crushing and matting.

To facilitate simple installation, the carpet has a Texback Spezial backing. This forms part of the ecofix hook and loop fitting system that doesn't require the use of adhesive, meaning a rapid and emissions free installation and ease of lifting for underfloor access.

Ian Hammond, Vorwerk comments: 'The tighter molecular structure of Antron 6.6 nylon enables improved durability.'

Polyflor Voyager portfolio of specialist transport floorcoverings has reportedly become the preferred choice of vehicle builder Minibus Options, of Whaley Bridge, High Peak, which supplies vehicles for the private and public sector.

The Voyager safety collection has

been developed to provide the aesthetics, performance and underfoot safety demanded by designers, builders and operators of buses, coaches, emergency and mobility vehicles, and comes in four surfaces – WS, Standard Finish, Standard Finish Plus and Embossed.

The product's sustainable slip resistance is said to meet the RRL Pendulum wet test (Four-S/Slider 96 rubber) with a surface roughness in line with HSE guidelines, whilst also allowing ease of installation. It can be welded to form impervious, continuous surfaces and coved to form its own skirting, allowing a full wash-through facility.

The floorcovering conforms to both ISO 3795 and the 95/28/EC fire test as endorsed by the Vehicle Certification Agency, as well as meeting DiPTAC's accessibility specification for small buses, which requires all floors and gangways to



ABOVE: Polyflor Voyager safety flooring on one of the Minibus Options' vehicles

be slip resistant material. All ranges also conform to EN 13845, the European safety flooring standard.

Voyager flooring can be tailored to individual requirements and supplied in pre-cut kit form to minimise wastage on installation. A computerised water jet cutting service is available to create public information signs and symbols, corporate logos and other inlaid decoration. **CFJ**

www.voyager.polyflor.com

BUYERS' GUIDE

For further information on any of the products mentioned, contact the suppliers directly. And please remember to tell them that you read about their companies in **CFJ**:

Desso 01235 554848

Invista 01296 663567

Polyflor 0161 767 1111