

Aircraft *interiors* INTERNATIONAL

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Flooring

FLAME, VIRUS AND PLANET-SAFE CARPET

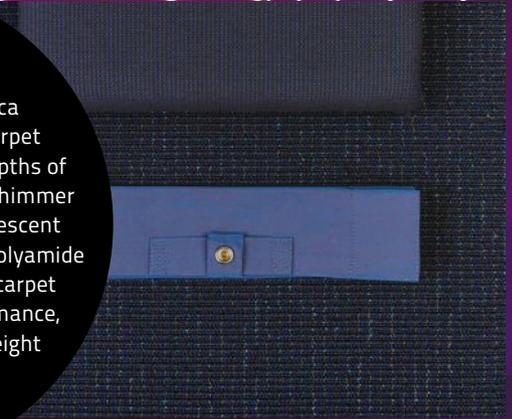
Anker is working on a project which uses BI-OME antimicrobial/viral-reducing technology developed by Devan Chemicals, a textile innovator. Devan has published independent test results of the effectiveness of the technology against SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses, and claims it has been proven to achieve a 99% reduction in virus presence on samples before washing, and retains 98.5% effectiveness after 25 wash cycles. This technology has been recognised with the 2020

European Technology Innovation Leadership Award by Frost & Sullivan.

Anker and Devan have also developed flame-retardant carpets for aviation that are made with a recycled Polyvinyl butyral (PVB) binder. The binder, supplied by Shark Solutions, a Danish cleantech company, is made of laminated glass from car windshields and architectural/building glass that otherwise would go to landfill.



As part of its 80th anniversary celebrations, Tisca has launched the Dark Pearl carpet collection, inspired by the dark depths of the ocean complemented by the shimmer and sparkle of dark pearls as iridescent colour accents. Produced in 100% polyamide and free of toxic chemicals, this carpet offers high durability and performance, reduced lifecycle costs, light weight and stain resistance.



Clean, pure and safe

In response to the pandemic, Tisca has introduced special finishes, named T-Clean, T-Pure and T-Safe, which can be applied on its seat covers, curtains, headrests and sidewall fabrics and carpets. These treatments are not only antiviral and antibacterial, but also antimicrobial, antifungal, antimycotic and antialgae, and they also make textiles repellent to dirt, water, oil and grease.

Tisca is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, and reports that thanks to being highly diversified and active in different markets, the company is doing well and has been hiring new employees and investing in new machines, even during the corona crisis. Moreover, the company is a fully independent and self-financed family business that does not rely on banks or other third-party investors.

Does aircraft flooring need to be antimicrobial?

Lace Greene Cordts, marketing manager at Lonseal, considers the arguments for antimicrobial aircraft flooring:

You may have read about how antimicrobial flooring should not be specified due to its contribution to creating 'superbugs'. Based on recent headline stories, superbugs are evolving no matter what we do. If anything, the excessive use of hand sanitisers has more effect in creating superbugs than adding an antimicrobial layer to flooring.

Every type of aircraft flooring, from carpet to vinyl, will have myriad microbial bacteria. While it is expected for healthcare facilities to choose a flooring material that is germ resistant, it should be the same for aircraft interiors. It's pretty clear why the aircraft community needs to be concerned about germ tolerance with regards to flooring.



Since microorganisms are everywhere (especially on our shoes, the products that we interact with, and in the air we breathe) a flooring product that contributes to combatting illness should be highly specified.

The floor has the highest exposure to microbes of any part of any facility. Floors with antimicrobial added agents in their formulation are much better protected than those that are just top-layer with an antibacterial agent. Having the antimicrobial components within the structure of the flooring defends against a much broader range of damaging organisms.

Lonseal's GreenMedic is a high-grade antimicrobial component already in the

construction of most of the company's aircraft sheet-vinyl flooring offerings. It impedes the growth of microorganisms, which then provides long-term protection from a broad spectrum of bacteria and other unwelcome guests. Some manufacturers use the word 'antimicrobial' incorrectly in their product lines, giving the consumer a false sense of security. While there is no amount of cleaning that can ensure that a facility (aside from cleanrooms) will be microbe-free, maintenance and disinfection is the only weapon to kill microbes.

A seamless surface is the first line of defence against bacteria, mould and other invaders because it does not give them a good place to breed. Adding an antimicrobial formulation doubles protection, and makes it nearly impossible for most microbial life to exist on or in the floor for long.