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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AT HOME: ILVA RESEARCH AND SOLUTIONS

The role of chemistry and research proves vital in controlling and selecting raw materials used in the formulation of paints, because they provide rigorous and analytic verification tools, sharply in contrast with perfunctory "naturalistic" approaches, which are often insufficient to resolve health-related issues.

Ilva brand, distributed today by IVM Chemicals, stands out on the wood coatings market for the particular attention dedicated by its Research and Development Laboratories to indoor pollution. In 2001, Ilva received the "Chemistry Environmental Award" for HECORAD®, the first product for the coating of wooden furniture, designed with an indoor zero-emission aim. Since then, the full spectrum research of IVM Chemicals laboratories continued, considering all aspects of the home environmental quality issue, and proposing ad hoc solutions to the market.

It is worth noting that about 80% of our daily activities take place in indoor environments (home, office, public buildings, shopping malls, etc.). Studies on IVM Chemicals products, outlined in the technical study, focussed on individual risk factors for health, related to indoor pollution (hazardous by inhalation, ingestion and contact), to identify specific technological solutions to individual issues. The test results have confirmed that it is possible to develop environmentally friendly coating technologies, specifically designed for indoor environments.

It is important to respond to the issue of indoor pollution with scientific data and not just with attractive messages. IVM Chemicals responds with carefully stud-



ied products and with the use of cutting-edge technologies, from the choice of raw materials to the assessment of their effects on the quality of indoor environments:

- **HECORAD® ILVA:** low-residual emission products ("Chemistry Environmental Award" - 2001)

- **HECOPUR® ILVA:** aromatic solvent-free products

- **POLIALLIICO® ILVA:** specific product for styrene free lacquered cycles ("Product Stewardship Award" Federchimica, Responsible Care Program, product management and compliance with safety, health and envi-



ronment during their entire life cycle - 2006)

- **AQUATECH® ILVA:** water-borne products with low heavy metals content, in compliance with the European standard EN 713 (safety of toys), and non-sensitising for skin

- **SILVER POWER ILVA:** wood-coating line that, thanks to special nano-silver molecules, prevents the development of bacteria on the surface of furniture. In 2010, with this innovative product line Ilva participated in partnership with TisettantaElan to the project: *La Casa del Ben-Essere* - Live and work in health, accessibility and global comfort for a better quality of life (www.lacasadelben-essere.it)

Ilva and IVM Chemicals srl

Ilva products were born in Italy in 1946, from one of the main European companies, Ilva Polimeri. The company became part of IVM Group in 1986. Today, Ilva is a Division of IVM Chemicals, one of the largest companies in Europe and worldwide, specializing in wood coatings. It also produces resins, adhesives and polyurethane elastomers. IVM Chemicals srl is part of IVM Group, world leader in this sector - considered one of the high-tech segments of the "Paints and varnishes" sector - with plants in the main European countries and distributing in more than 70 countries.

