

## **Media Release**

**Clariant International Ltd**

### *Clariant launches solvent-free alternative for leather finishing market*

**Muttenz, August 30, 2010 - Clariant offers leather finishers a solvent-free alternative to nitro cellulose (NC) emulsions with the launch of Aqualen<sup>®</sup> Top IL, an aqueous, modified polyurethane dispersion.**

Aqualen Top IL is an aqueous intermediate lacquer, especially developed to substitute solvent-containing emulsion lacquers. It is easy to use, in the same way as standard NC-emulsion lacquers without changes to application or procedure and without the use of solvents. As a result, solvents are eliminated from exhaust air and no solvent smell remains in the leather. NMP-free with very low VOC levels, Aqualen Top IL reduces emissions in tanneries, ensuring further environmental and health-related benefits.

Aqualen Top IL is applied onto the base coat to eliminate tackiness when piling, milling or embossing the leathers. The excellent plate release and subsequent milling behaviour offered by Aqualen Top IL ensures a trouble-free production process. Aqualen Top IL is mainly for use on furniture and automotive leathers.

ENDS



Clariant's comprehensive brochure about its Aqualen Top Coat range. (Photo: Clariant)

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### **Clariant – Exactly your chemistry**

Clariant is a global leader in the field of specialty chemicals. Strong business relationships, commitment to outstanding service and wide-ranging application know-how make Clariant a preferred partner for its customers.

Clariant, which is represented on five continents with over 100 group companies, employs around 17,300 people. Headquartered in Muttenz near Basel, Switzerland, it generated sales of CHF 6.6 billion in 2009. Clariant is organized into ten Business Units: Additives; Detergents & Intermediates; Emulsions; Industrial & Consumer Specialties; Leather Services; Masterbatches; Oil & Mining Services; Paper Specialties; Pigments; and Textile Chemicals.

Clariant is committed to sustainable growth, which is derived from its own innovative strength. Clariant's world-class products and services play a key role in its customers' manufacturing processes and add value to their end products. The company's success is based on the know-how of its people and their ability to identify new customer needs at an early stage and to work together with customers to develop innovative, efficient solutions.

**[www.clariant.com](http://www.clariant.com)**

Aqualen is a registered trademark of Clariant.