SPECIALIZATION AND CUSTOMIZATION TO SUPPORT THE CLIENT

ICA Group’s R&D laboratory is constantly engaged on coming up with products and solutions that have what it takes to make the most of its clients’ wooden articles (cabinet doors, modular furnishings, doors and flat panels, etc.), and of their heritage of style, creativity, design and high quality.

The ongoing research conducted into state-of-the-art technical solutions and the partnerships with leading names in the manufacture of coating systems have together made it possible for ICA Group to formulate acrylic, polyester and polyacrylic UV coating products that are able to comply with the most stringent application and instrumental tests. In addition, these products provide a tangible response to clients’ requirements for high levels of quality and productivity and low levels of solvent emissions into the atmosphere.

On the basis of the experience accumulated since the early ‘80s in the field of water-based coatings, in 2000 ICA Group’s R&D laboratories once again laid down a new challenge for the market through the formulation of the first water-based products that can be dried with UV lamps. Today, more than a decade on, ICA Group benefits from the input of a team of researchers who deal with these products on a full-time basis.

The ICA Group technicians continually test the compatibility of UV technology with innovative formulas for application not only to wood but also to paper, plastic and glass, with a view to achieving high-performance results on surfaces other than wood.
COLORS AND EFFECTS

ICA Group’s products have become the solutions of choice for wood coatings, thanks to the extensive range available and the exceptional focus on color.

The level of specialization that the group has achieved in the manufacture of pigmented UV products allows it to offer myriad tones [from pastel shades to bright colors] and effects [sandblasted, matt, gloss and metallic] that afford not only great versatility but also tremendous potential for customization.

The ICA COLOR tintometric system was created specifically to offer clients the instruments, software and know-how necessary to produce any pigment – transparent or hiding – simply and independently.
HIGH LEVELS OF CHEMICAL/PHYSICAL AND APPLICATION PERFORMANCE

One of the ICA Group’s main strategic assets is its culture of **maximum quality achieved through innovation**. This is why the R&D department has grown significantly over the years and is now structured into different areas. The heart of the department, dedicated to development and testing of new products, has been joined by the **Lifelab Tech**, a space dedicated entirely to customers and equipped with the most modern coating systems available. This is a place of inspiration and testing, where technology, knowledge and research are put to the service of the customers. With the help of specialized technicians, **application tests** are carried out here. These allow us to simulate entire coating cycles in real time and under real conditions in order to fully evaluate potential products.

Another part of the laboratory is set aside for the conducting of **chemical/physical tests** on the applied products. These tests are carried out on the coated surfaces both during the experimental phase and whenever requested by the client, with a view to verifying in-depth the technical characteristics of the product and to guaranteeing the delivery of solutions that are always innovative and of the highest possible quality.
ADHESION TEST
- Cross hatch test [UNI EN ISO 2409/07]
- Tear-off test [UNI 9240]

CHEMICAL/PHYSICAL RESISTANCE TESTING
- Resistance to cold liquids [UNI EN 12720]
- Pencil hardness [UNI 10782]
- Resistance to light [UNI EN 15187]
- Tendency to trap dirt [UNI 9300]
- Scratch resistance test [UNI EN 15186]
- Dry heat/wet heat test [UNI EN 12721-UNI EN 12722]
- Evaluation of the resistance of the surface to abrasion [UNI EN 15185]

CLIMATE TESTS
- Humidity [Internal method]
- Cold-check [UNI 9429/89]

FIRE-REACTION TEST
- Fire classification of construction products and building elements [European standard UNI EN 13501-1:2009, using the EN ISO 9239-1 test method]

TESTS ON INDOOR EMISSIONS
- Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and finishing products [emission test chamber UNI EN ISO 16000-9]
PRODUCT RANGE

POLYESTER AND POLYACRYLIC UV COATINGS
Widely used in the coating of flat panels, thanks in part to their relatively low cost, polyester and polyacrylic UV coatings deliver sufficient reactivity for the in-line speeds currently requested, as well as a good-quality finish. They are formulated with unsaturated polyester resins dissolved in styrene, which functions as a solvent and at the same time reacts with the resin, thus determining the total solid content of the coating.
Polyacrylic coatings combine the characteristics of polyester coatings and acrylic coatings, offering excellent performance/cost ratios.
Surfaces: flat veneered surfaces, solid wood, MDF or chipboard, melamine paper and decorated paper.

ACRYLIC UV COATINGS
Compared to polyester UV coatings, acrylic UV coatings have a lower level of environmental impact, since the monomers they contain have a far lower level of volatility with respect to the styrene contained in polyester UV coatings, and they therefore make it possible to achieve products with 100% solid content. They offer excellent elasticity, adhesion and chemical/physical resistance. In addition, through the use of appropriate primers, it is also possible to resolve the problems that typically affect resinous woods and the issues relating to adhesion on difficult surfaces such as melamine paper, plastic and glass. Thanks to their reactivity, the products specifically formulated for the coating of profiles and cornices satisfy the requirement for processing at high transport speed, which is very common in this sector.
Surfaces: flat and three-dimensional veneered surfaces, solid wood, MDF or chipboard, melamine paper and decorated paper, metal, plastic materials and glass.

WATER-BASED UV COATINGS
Water-based UV coatings may be considered aesthetically equivalent to traditional acrylic and polyurethane coatings. The range is also composed of pigmented products without limits on the shades, but with excellent coverage and light stability, surpassing the typical limitations of polyester or acrylic UV coatings.
Thanks to their physical drying, water-based UV coatings even make it possible to coat three-dimensional objects. Last but not least, it is possible to carry out mixed coating cycles when necessary, using acrylic UV base coats and water-based UV top coats, which make the most of the advantages of the two types of technology.
Surfaces: flat and three-dimensional veneered surfaces, solid wood, MDF or chipboard, melamine paper and decorated paper, metal, plastic materials and glass.
**PRIMERS AND SEALERS**
Primers are intended to ensure maximum adhesion to the substrate and a high level of resistance to overcoating. Sealers are designed to enhance adhesion on veneers and solid woods containing oleaginous substances during roller application.
- Transparent polyester UV primers
- Transparent and pigmented acrylic UV primers
- Transparent water-based UV primers and sealers

**BASE COATS AND FILLERS**
Base coats and fillers guarantee high levels of coverage, surface adhesion and immediate sandability following drying with UV lamps.
- Transparent and pigmented polyester UV coatings
- Transparent and pigmented paraffinated UV polyester coatings
- Transparent and pigmented polyacrylic UV coatings
- Transparent and pigmented acrylic UV coatings
- Transparent and pigmented water-based UV coatings [including dual cure]

**TOP COATS**
ICA’s top coats stand out for their brilliance, transparency, distension and chemical/physical resistance. The transparent and pigmented matt and gloss [from 5 to 95 gloss] polyester UV coatings are applicable to UV fillers and base coats.
- Transparent and pigmented paraffinated polyester UV coatings
- Transparent and pigmented matt and gloss polyacrylic UV coatings
- Transparent and pigmented matt and gloss [from 3 to 95 gloss] acrylic UV coatings
- Brushable transparent and pigmented matt and gloss [from 5 to 95 gloss] water-based UV coatings, applicable over water-based or polyurethane UV base coats, or polyester or acrylic fillers [both transparent and white]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICATION TYPES</th>
<th>SPRAY</th>
<th>CURTAIN COATER</th>
<th>ROLLER</th>
<th>COATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLYESTER UV COATINGS</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRYLIC UV COATINGS</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER-BASED UV COATINGS</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INNOVATION

HIGH SOLID CONTENT WATER-BASED UV BASE COAT
Recent developments in the formulation of water-based UV coatings have made it possible to produce a transparent base coat with high solid content that enables closed-pore coating with a limited number of coats. This allows for greater productivity and a reduction in the time spent in drying ovens. In terms of emissions, these coatings combine the typical advantages of water-based coatings with the advantages deriving from a high level of solid content.

WATER-BASED GLOSS UV COATINGS FOR SPRAY AND CURTAIN-COATER APPLICATION
Thanks to its ongoing R&S operations, ICA Group has overcome the technical limitations of water-based UV coatings, which previously prevented the production of gloss top coats. Today, these coatings form part of the range of top coats and offer high levels of brilliance, distension and brushability, in order to respond to the current coating requirements of the furniture industry.

POLISHABLE ACRYLIC GLOSS UV COATINGS FOR ROLLER, SPRAY AND CURTAIN-COATER APPLICATION
These UV coatings offer high levels of brilliance and coverage, making them ideal for transparent and pigmented gloss cycles. The opportunity to polish the gloss coating makes it possible to achieve defect-free surfaces that can be compared favorably to those created using polishable polyester or polyurethane coatings.

UV COATINGS FOR THE INERT COATING SYSTEM
These transparent and pigmented 100% acrylic UV coatings for the coating of flat panels made of wood, MDF or chipboard have been specifically designed for application with the Inert Coating system. This technology is mostly used for UV fillers and base coats.
UV COATINGS FOR EXCIMER LAMPS
UV coatings designed to be cured by Excimer lamps, suitable for the creation of extra-opaque surfaces without the use of opacifying agents. With respect to conventional UV lamps, Excimer lamps allow for surfaces that are softer to the touch and more uniform.

UV COATINGS FOR EDGES AND BORDERS
These transparent and pigmented 100% acrylic UV coatings offer good adhesion on MDF, chipboard and wood species, and have been designed for flat and molded edges and borders. They can be applied by roller or vacuum coater, or with the Inert Coating system. They can then be dried using traditional UV lamps or LED lamps.

UV ON-SITE COATINGS
These high solid content and water-based UV products for the on-site coating of furniture offer high levels of chemical resistance and scratch resistance. They are simple to use and can be applied by spraying or brushing. Combined with UV technology and using the dedicated portable unit, they guarantee short drying times and immediate handling after UV radiation. Also available is a specific range for the on-site coating and restoration of wooden flooring.

COATINGS FOR DRYING WITH LED AND LED UP LAMPS
100% acrylic UV coatings, both solvent and water-based, specifically formulated for polymerization with LED lamps only or in combination with standard UV and LED UP lamps.
The use of LED lamps is particularly recommended for curing products with high pigment contents, and for all processes in which it is essential to monitor the temperature of the support during the application stage e.g. resinous wood (pine) and plastic.