

ORTOVOX wins patent lawsuit against Mammut

For a few years Ortovox has been conducting a lawsuit against Mammut because of a patent infringement regarding the product Barryvox Pulse. On October 14 the judgment on this patent infringement was announced by the higher regional court of Düsseldorf, Germany. The court decided in second instance without further appeal that Barryvox Pulse is indeed an infringement on the Ortovox patent which is used in the Ortovox S1. The court decided in favour of Ortovox as follows:

Mammut

- is obliged to take back all stocked Barryvox Pulse transceivers at German retailers and refund their money or change the software programme which ensures that the compass is no longer used within the Barryvox Pulse.
- is no longer allowed to sell Barryvox Pulse using a compass as described in the patent.
- has to inform Ortovox about all retailers in Germany who have received Barryvox Pulse and the number of beacons sold to German retailers.
- is obliged to pay compensation to Ortovox for all the above.
- is obliged to pay for all the costs of the lawsuit.

Although the court decided without further appeal German law allows to lodge a complaint against no further appeal which would enable Mammut to go into a further appeal. However, this is unlikely as these complaints are only accepted in case of essential issues. In this case we just have a singular decision on a patent infringement which is normally not considered to be an essential issue.

This sentence is only valid for the German patent. As Ortovox is also holding the same patent in other European countries like Austria, Italy, France and Switzerland and also in the USA and Canada more patent lawsuits are to be expected if there is no agreement between Ortovox and Mammut

The Ortovox patent combines magnetic compass signals with transmitted signals from an avalanche transceiver. The advantages of this Ortovox patent are:

- The transceiver with said compass function is capable of displaying the direction of the receiving signal in 360°.
- The display of the direction of the signal remains on the screen even in situations when common transceivers are not able to display a signal, for example in a pause of a signal or during the period of overlapping signals.
- Changes in the direction of a signal are shown instantly, without any delay
- If the searcher is moving away from the victim, the transceiver will still show an arrow in the correct direction, which no other transceiver can do yet.
- The combination of the transceiver signal with magnetic compass information makes it easy to identify a signal and to display more than one victim simultaneously on the screen.

Gerald Kampel, CEO Ortovox, October 15, 2010.