



Press Release

Counterfeit automobile parts: Danger!

Six spare part manufacturers take joint action to fight counterfeit car parts

Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 28th May 2005 – Bendix Jurid (Honeywell), Corteco Meillor, Dana Perfect Circle, Eyquem, SNR Roulements and Valeo have formed an action group to raise awareness of the dangers of counterfeit parts and to co-operate further with official and legal authorities in the Middle East and Africa.

After several successful conferences in Algeria, the group has decided to participate at the Automechanika Gulf Trade Show in Dubai, to inform consumers about the dangers of counterfeit products and to promote original brands and genuine parts. The group will exhibit on the same stand under a common visual identity, created specifically to highlight their fight against the counterfeit industry.

“This fight is not about increasing sales for our businesses, but about protecting consumers from potentially fatal accidents by helping them to make informed decisions and about cleaning up the distribution channels for the image of our profession” quoted a spokesperson for the group.

Each manufacturer will be taking extra measures to protect their products, designs and trademarks and the group will continue to accentuate its communication on the dangers of counterfeit products. The group will actively combat the manufacture, distribution and sale of illegal and potentially dangerous copies of their products, through technical training for customs officials, enhanced legal action against counterfeiters, and high-tech product and packaging protection.

Trade in counterfeit products tends to follow similar trade routes to genuine products, thus making Middle East a recognized trading hub between the countries of production and final markets. Increased business activity in the region has created a higher demand for spare parts and components, which attracts sellers of fake parts who see it as a potential growth market.

The most dramatic consequences of counterfeit parts can be found in emerging markets where the absence of clear laws or non-application of existing laws makes the counterfeiters work easier (in Africa for example). Statistics show that counterfeit parts now represent an estimated 20% of the total spare parts market in the Middle East. Worldwide, the figure is estimated between 5% and 10 % representing an estimated loss of 10 billion euros globally. The counterfeit parts come mainly from Asia and in particular from China.

Press Contact :

Victoria MARSHALL, + 33 1 49 45 36 90

Victoria.marshall@valeo.com