

Press-release

Dusseldorf, Germany

Steel producers ready for fighting against fake products within industry

Producers of steel pipes, fittings and flanges have today met in Dusseldorf to discuss the problem of steel products counterfeiting, challenging the industry today. Ultimate goal of the meeting is to develop joint plan of actions to withstand unfair competition that cause crucial risks for industry and society. The meeting was organized as part of Fight Fake Products Initiative, established in December 2015.

During the meeting, members shared the plans to establish official entity representing the interest of the Initiative members. Participants have also discussed some cases of fake products, scope of legal actions to defend trademarks.

Carlo Farina, Dr., Managing Director, Friedrich Geldbach, GmbH:

“Today is the very first time ever that so many key suppliers are raising their voices into one, the first time ever that the counterfeiting and forgery evidence is brought so openly and so strongly directly to the public.

The main goal of creating Fight Fake Products Initiative is to act as a strong, coherent voice for European industry in the fight against the manufacture, distribution and sales of counterfeited products”.

Anaïs EIDEN, Group Senior Legal Manager, Intellectual Property and R&D, Vallourec:

“The use of counterfeited products creates significant risks for our industry. It is not just about loss of profit and reputation. Use of counterfeited products that do not meet the required quality standards can cause serious damages to the environment in case of accidents.

Vallourec - strongly supports "Fight Fake Products Initiatives" as an effective way to address, together with other manufacturers, these risks.”

Andrey Burtsev, Vice-President of sales, Interpipe:

“Counterfeiting of steel is growing, particularly in the Middle East. The use of fake steel here makes vital safety issues. Pipe products and accessories are widely used in civil engineering in the region.

Counterfeiters copy certificates, production documents, but they can't copy quality. It can be a real threat for society. As a part of this initiative, we should further work with suppliers, official authorities, government to make this market fairer, safer and more competitive”.

Michael Kremmel, Sales director for the Middle East and Asia, Erne Fittings

“We are to make customers, legal authorities, as well as governments aware of this malpractice. If they are aware, they can face it and react accordingly. Surely, producers do it in on day-to-day basis, checking certificates, verifying the documents. But it is not enough. As an organized group we will be in the position to address these cases by any means”.

Maria Hugosson, Marketing & Sales Director, Tubular Products, Sandvik Materials Technology.

"We work with our customers every day to find material solutions to the challenges they face and so we want to ensure that the materials they are purchasing from us are Sandvik quality assured products.

Counterfeiting causes so many serious issues; polluting the environment, and accidents from compromising health & safety procedures. Health & Safety and Quality are fundamental considerations in all our operations, we comply or continue to exceed requirements.

We work hard to prevent fake products, entering the market place, but we felt by joining the 'Fight Fake Products Initiative' and working as a group with other manufacturers, it would be a more forceful Industry approach. It is an excellent initiative and by sharing ideas we will all be able to ensure our products and trademarks remain the quality the customer perceives for today and in the future."

Companies – members of Fight Fake Products Initiative

ARCELORMITTAL (Luxembourg)



ArcelorMittal

ERNE FITTINGS GMBH (Austria)



FRIEDRICH GELDBACH GMBH (Germany)



**IML INDUSTRIA MECCANICA LIGURE SPA
(Italy)**



INTERPIPE (Ukraine)



METALFAR PRODOTTI INDUSTRIALI SPA (Italy)



**NIPPON STEEL & SUMITOMO METAL
CORPORATION – NSSMC (Japan)**



OFFICINE SANTAFEDE SRL (Italy)



OMC RACCORDI SRL (Italy)



RACCORTUBI SPA (Italy)



**SALZGITTER MANNESMANN STAINLESS
TUBES GMBH (Germany)**



SANDVIK AB (Sweden)



THABENKAN CO. LTD. (Thailand)



ULMA FORJA S.COOP. (Spain)



VALLOUREC (France)



VIAR SPA (Italy)



For further information please visit our website: www.fight-fake.com