

PRESS RELEASE

**AUTOMOTIVE AFTERMARKET SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE -
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRODUCT AUTHENTICATION AND
TRACEABILITY TO COMBAT COUNTERFEITING**

Major European automotive component & equipment manufacturing companies, represented by the CLEPA (European Association of Automotive Suppliers), are starting a standardized process to combat counterfeiting of automotive parts. In addition to posing a threat to consumer safety, it is estimated that product piracy costs the global automotive parts industry €5-10 billion per year.

CLEPA is recommending as an industry solution the deployment of information technology and bar coding – a GS1 and ISO compliant standard designed as a powerful countermeasure against product piracy with the added benefit of improving track & tracing abilities along the whole supply chain.

This CLEPA code recommendation assigns to each and every single automotive aftermarket product a globally unique identifier in the form of a two dimensional Data Matrix bar code. Each individual item can then be authenticated. Compared to other security measures like holograms, seals, colour coding, etc. which can be copied or mimicked and where the proof of genuineness is only on the packaging, the philosophy behind the CLEPA code is different. The authentication will be done on the basis of intelligent test algorithms within a secure data base which can not be amended from unauthorized persons.

Josef Frank, Director of CLEPA Aftermarket, is delighted about the development: “The global coding standard is tailored to the specific need of the aftermarket industry. They are approved by GS1 and ISO. On the other hand it leaves enough room for company specific adaptations. Additional benefits are the track & trace ability, low implementation costs in manufacturing, and savings in the supply chain and quality control.”

The coding recommendations for this infrastructure have been worked out by Vesdo Ltd. a Swiss security engineering firm, specializing in authentication technologies and product coding. “Based on the positive experiences in other industries we can assure the practical benefits of the code and its low cost and easy realisation within the production process,” resumes Sergej Toedtli, CEO of Vesdo.

A fully operational IT solution implementing the authentication process has been developed as a clearing hub by TecCom GmbH. The Germany based specialist for process optimization has set up a system to check the originality worldwide 24/7.

Already more than ten of the leading manufacturers of automotive products in Europe will participate and support the development right from the beginning, for example Bosch, Conti Teves, Schaeffler Group (LuK & INA), Tenneco, and TRW. “The clearing hub “TecIdentify” is designed to enable all persons wanting to authenticate an article, e.g. customs, garages, end users, wholesale dealers, manufacturers, etc. an easy access to the system. Currently users can choose between scanner or manual input, but by the end of 2007 they will also have the choice to use mobile phones to capture their codes”, summarises Jürgen Buchert, CEO of TecCom, the current development.

Clepa members are invited to join this Standard at their discretion, underlines Josef Frank, but of course the choice of service providers depends on each company. The Clepa coding recommendation can be combined with other existing solutions.

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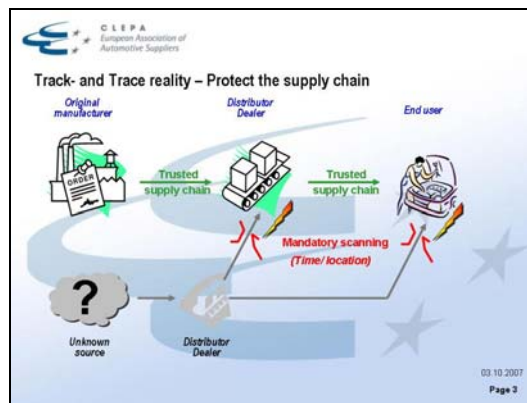
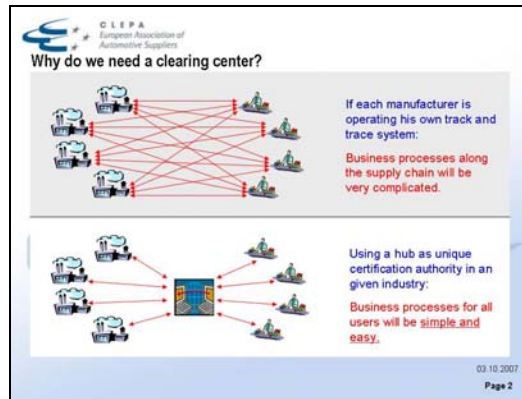
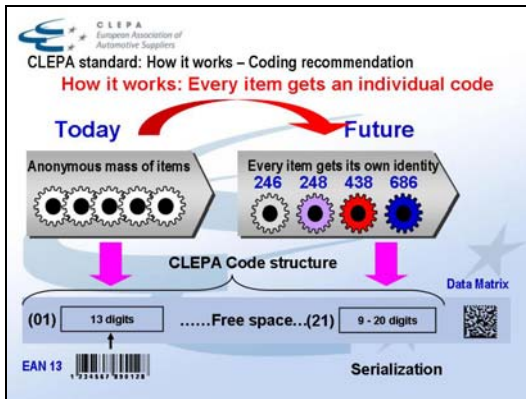
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CLEPA is the European umbrella membership organisation representing the interests of the global automotive supply industry. More than 70 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 20 National trade associations and European sectoral associations are members of CLEPA, representing more than 3,000 companies, employing more than three million people and covering all products and services within the automotive supply chain. Based in Brussels, Belgium, CLEPA is recognized as the natural discussion partner by the European Institutions, United Nations and fellow associations (ACEA, JAMA, MEMA, etc).

For more information, visit www.clepa.com

ANNEX to Press Release dated 15.10.07



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