



THE HP PROLIANT BL20P  
G3 BLADE SERVER  
x Download the blades  
TCO white paper



SMART ADVICE. SMART TECHNOLOGY.

Sat, 26 Nov, 2005

New Users: [Register](#) | Members: [Login](#)

Search - section for

[Home](#)[Current Issue](#)[News](#)[UAE](#)[Regional](#)[International](#)[Features](#)[Advanced Search](#)[Gitex Times](#)[ITP Corporate](#)[ITP Business](#)[ITP Technology](#)[ITP Events](#)[ITP Consulting](#)[arabian Business](#)[campaign](#)[CHANNEL](#)[digitalstudio](#)Ads by [Goooooogle](#)**New \$20 Banknotes**

Scanners that detect counterfeit banknotes including new \$20 note  
[www.uveritech.com](http://www.uveritech.com)

**EuroScan Laser**

Laser detector of fake Euro notes Absolutely reliable  
[www.euroscan.es](http://www.euroscan.es)

home \ news \ uae \

Sunday, 20 November, 2005

**Construction Week**

## Half of products on Gulf sites are copycat fakes

by [Angela Giuffrida](#)

More than half of the building products circulating among the Gulf's construction sites could be counterfeit.

The sector is rife with second-rate products being made in cheap Asian labour markets, says Arif Al Rahma, general manager of Bentley Security and Safety Consultancy, a company that investigates counterfeit products and brands.

Former police officer Al Rahma, says that some audacious fraudsters are even deliberately misspelling the original manufacturer's brand name to fool buyers. One case uncovered by Bentley found that lighting packaged under the Phillips banner was misspelled to give the impression that it was manufactured by the famous electrical company.

Lights, cables, bathroom accessories, fire alarms, air conditioning ducts and piping are just some of the fake products, emblazoned with the original manufacturer's packaging and logo, infiltrating the market.

He says that the speed at which construction is growing and lax market conditions have made the Gulf an easy target for counterfeiters, with the distribution hub being Dubai.

Al Rahma estimates that, because of the sheer number of fake products being used in construction, some buildings might not survive more than 20 years before extensive refurbishment or renovation is required.

"Approximately 60% of building-related products are counterfeit," he said. "Developers don't have the time or staff to check whether their contractors are using genuine materials. Some contractors believe they're paying for the real article, but in other cases, because of the escalating cost of materials, they intentionally buy the fake products.

Bentley has worked on cases for companies including Siemens,

**Advanced Tools**

print



email



feedback

**Free Email Newsletter**

Subscribe to the **Construction Week Newsletter**:

[See an example »](#)

[All ITP newsletters »](#)



**Counterfeit building products are readily available in Deira's Mazar Bazaar.**