AIRSWEEP®
Manufactured by Control Concepts, Inc.

THE REAL COST OF COUNTERFEIT MATERIAL FLOW AIDS:

ASSESS TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS RISKS

In recent years, counterfeit and imitation material flow aids have become more prevalent. While they resemble established brands like AirSweep®, closer inspection reveals inferior materials and poor build quality.

This report reveals common flaws in counterfeit flow aid systems that lead to unreliable performance, affecting business productivity and safety.

1 MATERIAL QUALITY AND STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

An authentic AirSweep is made of certified solid bar stock, which is proven to be denser, stronger and more rigid. Certified metal stock will withstand the demands of industrial processes: air and pressure changes, vibration and impact, harsh operating environments, and wear and tear.

Counterfeit flow aids are often made of cast metal, which is porous and brittle. It is prone to cracking or shattering under repeated shock and cycling.

Business impact of counterfeit flow aids

- Downtime caused by sudden component failure
- Higher maintenance and replacement costs
- Product contamination when fractured components enter the process stream

The counterfeit component is made of impure metal, which has inferior quality and surface finish.

2 THREAD QUALITY

Counterfeit systems have sharp cut threads with burs, which can lead to several issues during installation and operation:

- **Sharp edges and burs** can cause seizing (or binding and jamming) in mounting couplings or cut workers who are handling the parts.
- **Incompatible size** (may be too loose or tight, or too thin or long)
- **Low-quality material and construction** cause threads to wear down and degrade, shortening the system's service life.

In some cases, poor thread quality poses serious safety risks. Valve stems with cut threads can snap inside the hopper—turning into high-speed projectiles that can destroy equipment and injure workers.

A brand-new counterfeit valve stem shows signs of damage.

Business impact of counterfeit flow aids

- Delays or injury during installation
- Double costs of repurchasing incompatible or damaged components
- Safety risks

3 SPRING QUALITY

The forces that the springs exert during operation affects whether moving components return to their designed position, overcome friction and inertia, and maintain consistent timing.

Tests on counterfeits showed that their springs were magnetic or made of low-quality alloys. They were also shorter, thinner, and significantly weaker. Counterfeit springs also have a weak force, causing inconsistent operation, higher mechanical stress, and premature failures.

Authentic AirSweep systems use springs made of 316 stainless steel, chosen for their strength, corrosion resistance, and stability during repeated cycling.

Business impact of counterfeit flow aids

- Lower system reliability and efficiency
- Higher maintenance frequency and costs
- Higher risk of component failure and downtime

On the left, a counterfeit valve guide shows a weak, two-piece pressed assembly. The authentic AirSweep (right) is machined from solid bar stock to prevent fracturing.

4 QUALITY CONTROL AND CUSTOMER PROTECTION

AirSweep follows strict quality control measures to ensure each system performs consistently and safely.

Components are sourced from certified steel sources and produced using computer-aided machining. Each component is also laser marked with a unique serial number, allowing customers to verify authenticity.

AirSweep reinforces its commitment to quality by providing the best customer protection: a 90-Day Money Back Guarantee, a 7-Year Warranty (the longest in the business), and lifetime customer support.

Business impact of counterfeit flow aids

- Poor performance and unreliable material flow
- Low to zero customer protection and support
- Higher maintenance costs because of frequent repairs and replacement

AirSweep Authenticity Guarantee: Each AirSweep is laser marked with a unique serial number and QR code that activates warranties and lifetime customer support.

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COUNTERFEIT FLOW AIDS: HIGHER RISK, HIGHER TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

Counterfeit flow aid systems may have lower upfront costs, but these savings are often outweighed by increased repair, replacement, and operating costs over time. Limited quality control and lack of customer protection further increase risk once the system is in operation.

The inferior materials and design can also damage equipment, affect product quality, or increase chances of contamination, creating safety risks and legal liabilities.

AIRSWEEP AUTHENTICITY CHECK

Spot a counterfeit flow aid system before it's even installed.

Feature	Genuine AirSweep	Counterfeit (The Risk)
Metal Body	Solid bar stock (heavy duty)	Brittle "Cast" Metal (can break loose)
Threads	Strong and Smooth	Weak and Jagged
Spring Strength	Pass	Fail
Edges	Smooth and Safe	Sharp Burrs (injury hazard)

PROTECT YOUR PRODUCTION LINE

Ensure your system is protected by the original, patented technology. Ask about purchasing an AirSweep system, verify its authenticity, or report a counterfeit.

Talk to AirSweep Support