

# Product and Supply Chain Protection



**Combating counterfeiting and illicit trade.  
Securing your supply chain.**

Counterfeiting and illicit trade of health care products is a significant problem worldwide. Health care products in particular are the third most counterfeited product category in the world, which presents patient safety and supply chain integrity risk.

## Why product and supply chain protection at Ethicon is important to you and your patients

Purchasing Ethicon products from unauthorized sources may expose you to many risks. Counterfeiting of medical devices is an emerging global concern for all and a serious threat to patient safety.

Medical devices purchased from unauthorized sources have left the normal chain and may not be stored in conditions that meet the manufacturer's specifications. Improper storage and handling may alter the performances of these devices, which in turn may create a health risk.

Medical devices purchased from unauthorized sources could be counterfeit or adulterated, resulting in having product in your inventory not cleared by regulatory authorities; and it may have been deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity, tampered with, stolen, mishandled or contaminated.

At Ethicon, we believe a safe and secure supply chain is essential to proactively protecting your patients, the reputation of your hospital system and limiting your exposure to counterfeit, diversion and other illicit trade risks.



**\$4.2 Trillion in total global economic value of counterfeit and pirated products<sup>1</sup>**



**More than 8% of the medical devices in circulation are counterfeit<sup>2</sup>**

## How Ethicon protects your patients and your reputation

Ethicon is continually developing and applying measures throughout the process of product development, distribution, and enforcement to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade issues.

- **Distribution:** Ethicon continues to establish and enforce distribution agreements that include provisions addressing counterfeit product. Ethicon utilizes a network of authorized distributors who have agreed not to purchase products from the secondary market
- **Identification:** Ethicon actively monitors the global marketplace for potential counterfeit products through a combination of product sampling, analysis of customer complaints, and other means. If counterfeit product is confirmed, appropriate health authorities are notified and comprehensive communications are provided to you so that these products can be identified, quarantined, and appropriate action taken as quickly as possible
- **Enforcement:** Ethicon works with numerous government agencies and business partners around the world to identify counterfeit product manufacturers and distributors. Once they are identified, we vigorously pursue legal actions against those responsible

## What you can do to protect your patients and reputation

Always purchase products direct from Ethicon or from our authorized distributors. Not doing so may put your patients and your supply chain at risk.

- In the event of a recall, a company may not be able to ensure the recall of product purchased from unauthorized distributors
- Ask your distributor to verify the authenticity of its products

Visit <https://jjmdanimalhealth.com/en-US/service-overview/authorized-distributors> for the most up-to-date list of authorized distributors.



## How we can work together to protect the supply chain

Call Ethicon Customer Support at 1-877-ETHICON (384-4266) if you have product in your facility that you think may be counterfeit or diverted.

To learn more about Product and Supply Chain Protection at Ethicon, please visit [www.ethicon.com](http://www.ethicon.com).

1 International Chamber of Commerce. Available at: <https://iccwbo.org/global-issues-trends/bascap-counterfeiting-piracy/> Accessed November 11, 2020

2. Over 8% of medical devices in circulation are counterfeit: WHO. News-Medical.net. <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20100128/Over-825-of-medical-devices-in-circulation-are-counterfeit-WHO.aspx>. Accessed November 11, 2020