

Where are your bearings coming from?

Get the facts about the growing problem of counterfeiting



When you pay for SKF quality, you should get SKF quality.

If you get your SKF bearings or other products through unauthorized distributors, you risk getting far less. Illegal bearing manufacturers deploy devious techniques to fool end-users and OEMs. Some of these include:

- **New low-quality bearings are re-labeled with false brand markings and put into imitation packaging that appears identical to the real thing.**
- **Bearings are remanufactured, then sold with no indication that they have been remanufactured.**
- **Very old bearings are cleaned, polished and supplied without the buyer being informed of how old they are.**

Thanks to today's sophisticated graphics technologies, unscrupulous manufacturers worldwide are also producing very good copies of SKF product boxes, increasing the odds that their counterfeit bearings will slip into legitimate industrial distribution channels.

In the past, counterfeit manufacturing was most prevalent in emerging markets. But today, the practice is also occurring in places where such activity was once quite rare. The truth is, counterfeit bearings are appearing virtually everywhere along the global supply chain.

And they are not limited by size or type. Despite the perception that smaller, easier-to-copy bearings for automotive or consumer product applications dominate, large-size bearing counterfeits are increasingly common in the industrial aftermarket.

Instead of getting a premium quality product, you end up purchasing a poor quality product for a price much higher than it is worth.



Typical tools used in a counterfeit workshop.



False markings are etched on bearings using silk screens such as this.



Counterfeit bearings confiscated during a police raid.

How much trouble can a counterfeit product cause?



Steel mill discovers 1 000 counterfeits

On suspicion that a non-authorized dealer had supplied them with a large quantity of counterfeit SKF bearings, mill management asked SKF to conduct an inspection. The mill reported that, after two to three hours of operation, the replacement bearings were performing so poorly, the mill's maintenance team was forced to shut down the machinery, dismount the bearings, and re-mount the older bearings.

After inspecting more than 1 000 suspect bearings, SKF technicians concluded that they were in fact counterfeit, thereby helping the mill keep a costly mistake from becoming even more expensive.



Unplanned shutdown at petrochemical plant

For one unfortunate petrochemical processor, it took an emergency shutdown to reveal that it was being supplied with counterfeit SKF bearings.

Following just two days of operation, one of these bearings failed in a crucial application, forcing the costly, unplanned shutdown. After a complete analysis, SKF confirmed that the bearings were counterfeit. In cooperation with an SKF authorized distributor, the counterfeits were quickly replaced with genuine components.



Marine vessel finds repair almost worse than problem

After only 14 hours of continuous operation, a generator onboard a marine vessel began experiencing such extreme vibration that it had to be shut down. As the generator had just undergone repairs, the crew was immediately suspicious.

Fearing the worst, the vessel's maintenance team removed the suspect bearing and sent it to SKF for a rigorous bearing failure analysis. SKF confirmed that the bearing was counterfeit, which nearly caused the "repairs" to be worse than the original problem.

What is SKF doing to combat counterfeiting?

SKF is taking a no-tolerance approach to counterfeiting. We work hard to keep counterfeits away from the market.

- **SKF actively assists local law enforcement authorities in taking action against this illegal activity. Successful raids and closed businesses do great harm to the counterfeit trade.**
- **Efforts are being made to increase awareness about the existence of counterfeits, and how to find counterfeit-free sources.**
- **SKF products are equipped with a special anti-counterfeit marking. Trained SKF personnel can recognize if a product is genuine SKF or not.**

If you have any questions or concerns about counterfeit SKF products or want to report suspicious actions, please contact SKF. For local area contact details, please refer to www.skf.com. You can also inform SKF headquarters directly by sending an email to genuine@skf.com.



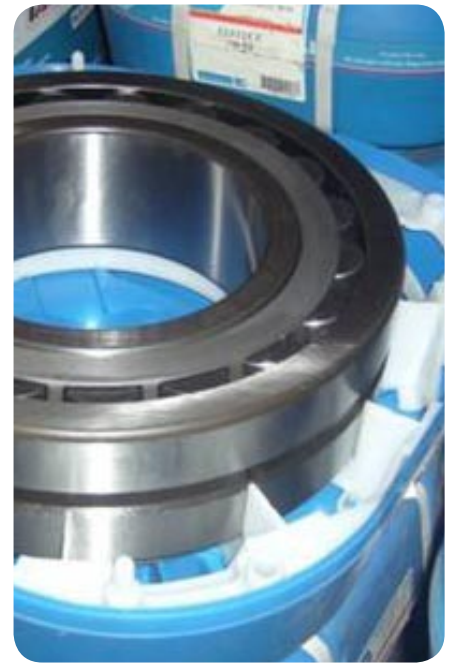
Police raids take place when enough evidence is collected.

You may not be able to tell which is the real SKF bearing ... but your machine will!

Some counterfeit bearings look so much like the real thing that only a trained technician can tell them apart. However, the poor quality of counterfeit bearings – and the risks they pose to equipment – can sometimes be revealed after just hours of use.



Counterfeit bearings can degrade and fail quickly, even catastrophically, bringing a plant's production line – and profits – to a halt. The results could include expensive damage to capital equipment, or injury to machine operators and other plant personnel.



All the items shown on this page are counterfeit.

Make sure that you are protected

Given the extremely high “look-alike quality” of today’s counterfeit products, it is very difficult for most people to tell a real SKF product from a fake. Our best recommendation for protecting yourself from fraudulent purchases? Never source your SKF bearings – or bearings from any premium manufacturer – through unauthorized distribution channels.

You will find a listing of SKF Authorized Distributors in your country or region on your local SKF website. Or, visit www.skf.com, click on Services, then Distributor Network, to find the closest location to you.

Always purchase your SKF products from an SKF Authorized Distributor!



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