



Product Alert - Counterfeit Giacomini Valve

October 4th, 2019

Type of Notification: Counterfeit

FM Approvals has been made aware of suspect counterfeit angle hose valves found in Ecuador bearing an FM Approvals mark. FM Approvals has neither tested nor certified these products.

Product Identity: The valves bear the model number “A55” and the Giacomini logo, however, the identity of the manufacturer is unknown. Differences between the authentic valve and the counterfeit valve are shown in Figures 1 – 5 (attached).

Description: 1-1/2 in. angle hose valves

FM Approval status: **Not FM Approved**

Hazard involved: The products in question are angle hose valves used to initiate and cease water flow to hose lines for manual firefighting operations. The counterfeit products bear the FM Approvals mark but have never been tested by FM Approvals. Safety concerns of untested angle hose valves include but are not limited to the strength of the valve body and valve stem, the leak resistance of the valve seat, the leak resistance of the stem seal and the friction loss of the valve.

If you suspect you are in possession of any of the affected equipment listed above bearing the FM Approvals certification marking, please bring that to the attention of:

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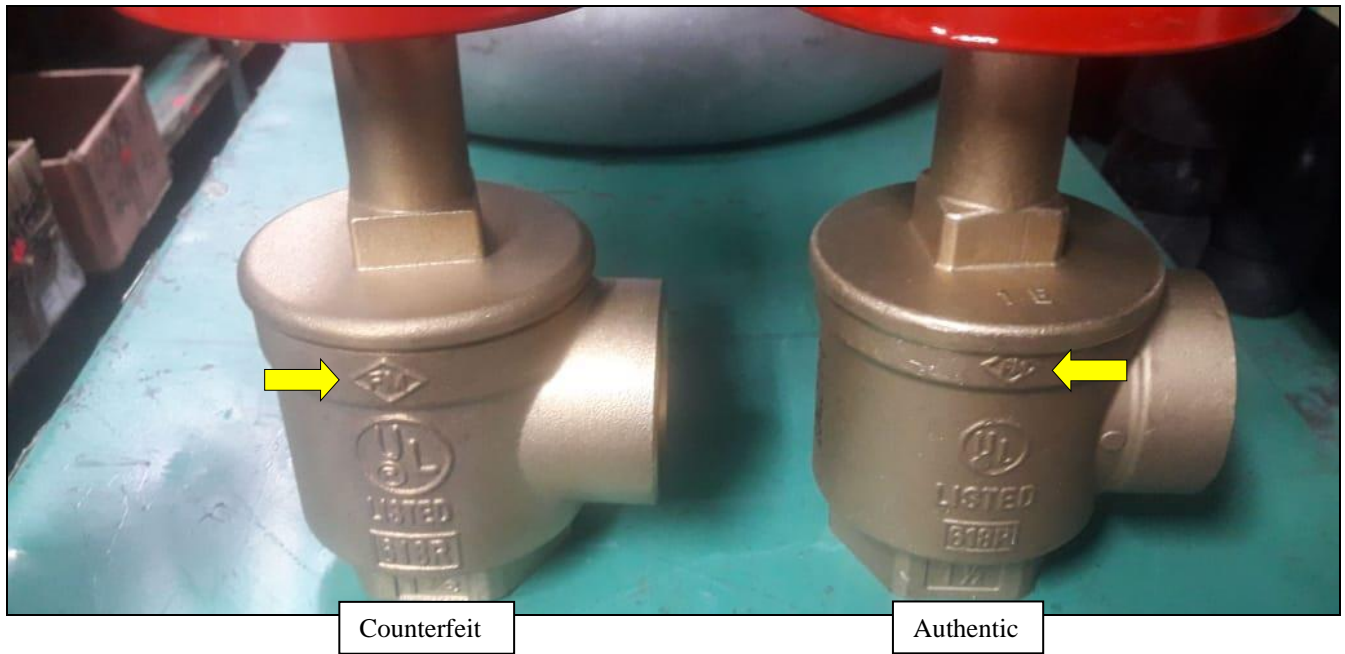


Figure 1. An example of the counterfeit valve on the left and an authentic Giacomini A55 valve on the right. The yellow arrows highlight the authorized FM Approvals marking on the right and the unauthorized FM mark on the counterfeit valve on the left. Note also that the authentic valve has a banded outlet while the counterfeit valve's outlet is plain.

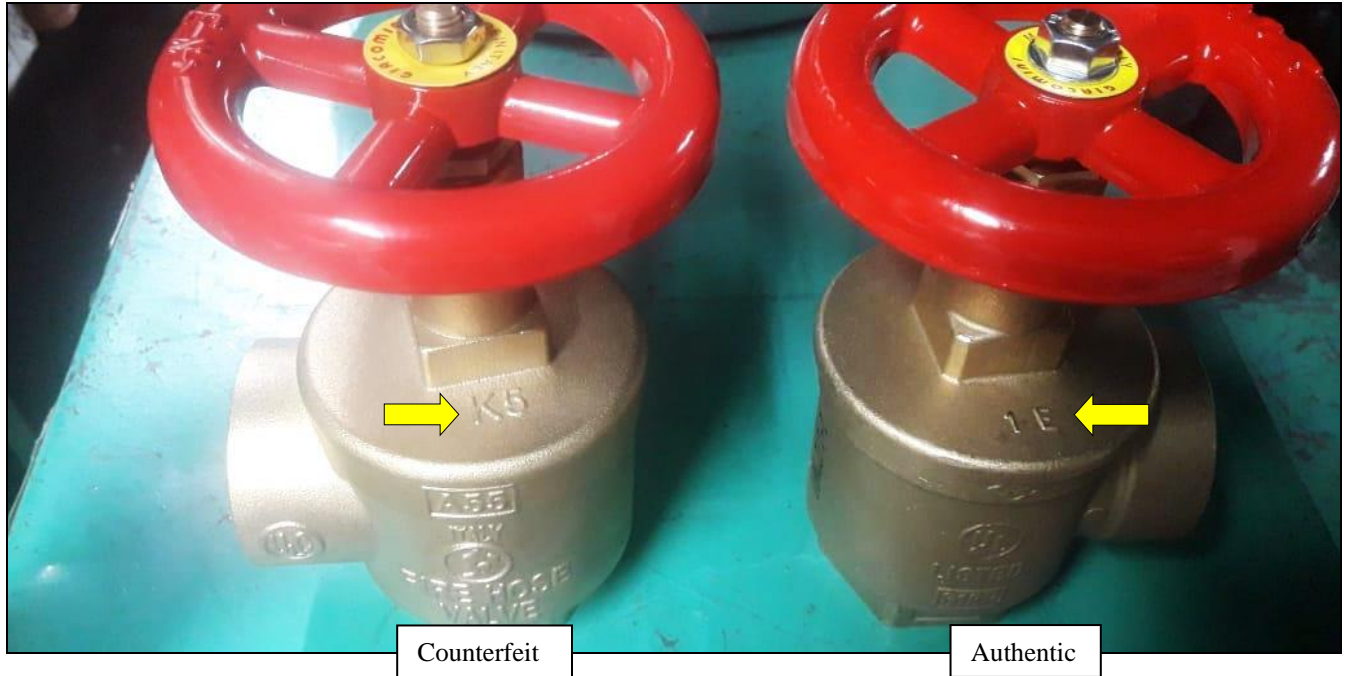


Figure 2. The difference in the date codes on a counterfeit valve (left) and an authentic Giacomini valve (right). The date code, in both cases, is cast into the valve bonnet. The code on the authentic valve uses smaller lettering and different spacing than the counterfeit valve.

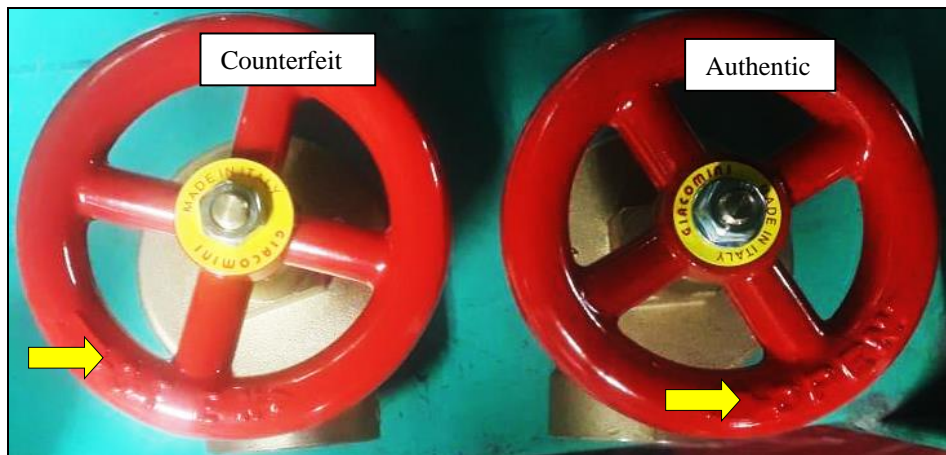


Figure 3. A comparison of top views of a counterfeit valve (left) and an authentic Giacomini valve (right). There are three key differences in this view. The first difference is the spacing of the letters in the “OPEN” stamping in the rim of the handwheel. The counterfeit valve has a significant gap between the letters “P” and “E” while the authentic valve maintains consistent spacing between all the letters. The second difference is the yellow plate affixed under the stem nut. The authentic valve tag is smaller in diameter and the lettering of “GIACOMINI” and “MADE IN ITALY” is spaced closer to the stem nut. The third difference is the stem nut itself, which is a flanged nut on the authentic valve and is a plain nut on the counterfeit valve.



Figure 4. The side of the valve bodies opposite the outlets of both the counterfeit (left) and authentic valve (right). There is a line of laser print on the body of the authentic valve indicating the nominal pipe size and thread standard “1-1/2”NPT” that does not appear anywhere on the counterfeit valve.

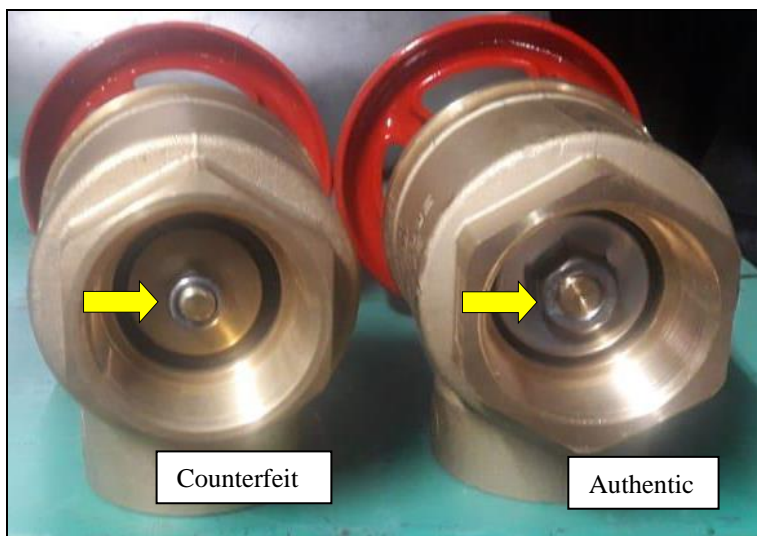


Figure 5. The inlets of a counterfeit valve (left) and an authentic Giacomini valve (right). The disc assemblies of the two valves appear different from this view. The authentic valve uses a much larger retaining nut than the counterfeit valve. Also, the retaining washer in the authentic valve is made from stainless steel, and the counterfeit valve uses an unknown material with a brass like appearance.