

# 6 Tips to Prevent Gray Market and Counterfeit Product Risks

## **1.** Look carefully for authorized channels.

Only buy products from 3M authorized distribution channels. And always vet new dealers that solicit your practice.



#### 2. Be wary of hard-to-reach businesses.

Avoid businesses that make it hard to talk to a real person or who are not upfront about how they can be contacted.



# 3. Distributor questions? Ask us.

If you have a question about whether a distributor is legitimate, please contact 3M directly and ask. Call 3M Customer Care at 800-634-2249 or check our website.



4. Avoid deals that are "too good to be true." They usually are.



#### 5. Train your staff to buy smart.

Train your staff to know who they are buying from, and to avoid compromising quality in their pursuit of cost reduction. Give them a list of



your favorite brand's authorized distributors. Teach them to work with authorized distributors to find offers that work for your budget.

## 6. Keep the idea of cost reduction in perspective.

Saving on your supply expense is minor when you consider the value of your business and your reputation.

