

MR. DWYER: To what extent are substandard or counterfeit parts a problem in foreign countries?

CHAIRMAN SELIN:

The NRC inspects a limited number of foreign suppliers to U.S. plants. To date, inspection issues identified relate to product quality and compliance with U.S. codes and standards, and not to fraudulent parts, materials or services. There have been some substandard or fraudulent parts issues with foreign products, such as fasteners, provided through U.S. suppliers.

Through an investigation in 1988, NRC determined that fraudulent pipe flanges manufactured in the U.S. had been sold to Korea, Spain and Taiwan for use in some of their nuclear power plants. The flanges were commercial grade quality which were falsely certified as meeting the requirements of the ASME Code. NRC promptly notified the appropriate safety authorities in each of these countries.

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