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Project No.:	22R0041
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# Third Party Aftermarket and Counterfeit Product Analysis HP Printers / Aftermarket Chips

Michael Strizich, MicroNet Solutions Inc.

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#### 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1 Project overview

Document the origin and composition of different toner **aftermarket (AM)** products and their induced printer behavior. Ultimately, the goal is to identify the relationship, if any, between the different options available and manufacturers.

This project has been commissioned by HP Inc. All equipment and samples for testing were provided by HP Inc.

### 1.2 Summary findings

Through a series of tests at the printer and cartridge level, along with visual inspection of the chips, there is clear evidence that Ninestar Corporation, or its subsidiaries, is the chip manufacturer of the same chips that are used in both aftermarket and counterfeit cartridges.

### Key findings:

- 1. Aftermarket chips made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries lead user to believe that counterfeit cartridges are genuine HP cartridges.
- 2. Off-the-shelf aftermarket chips sold and made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries identified the cartridges as genuine HP cartridges.
- Re-programmable aftermarket chips sold and made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries can be programmed by a 3rd party to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.
- 4. Side by side comparison of the die markings on de-capped microcontrollers of the chip samples provide clear evidence that a) aftermarket chips found on counterfeit cartridges, b) off-the-shelf aftermarket chips sold and made by a Ninestar subsidiary, c) aftermarket chips found on cartridges made by Ninestar, and d) re-programmable aftermarket chips sold and made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries, were all developed and made by the same company.



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### 2.0 Scope of work

### 2.1 Printers tested:

- HP LaserJet M402dn, mono printer which works with CF226A cartridge
- HP LaserJet M552dn, color printer which works with CF360A, CF361A, CF362A, CF363A cartridges

### 2.2 Chip types tested:

Sample type	Whole Cartridge vs Stand-alone chip	Trademark/ Manufacturing field	Pre-programmed vs Programmable
I	Whole cartridge	Non-HP	Pre-programmed
II	Stand-alone chip	HP	Pre-programmed
III	Stand-alone chip	Programmable	Programmable
IV	Whole cartridge (counterfeit)	HP	Pre-programmed
V	Original HP Cartridge	HP	Non-Programmable



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### 2.2.1 Tested chip samples details

Aftermarket and counterfeit cartridges, standalone aftermarket chips:

Samples	Description
Sample # 1	Aftermarket chip found on counterfeit CF226X cartridge found in Germany
Sample # 2	Aftermarket chip found on counterfeit CF226X cartridge found in Germany
Sample # 3	Aftermarket chip found on counterfeit CF361A cartridge found in China
Sample # 4	Aftermarket chip found on CF361A cartridge made by Ninestar
Sample # 5	Aftermarket CF361X chip sold by Apus Soluções – official distributor of Apex Microelectronics (a member of the Ninestar group)
Sample # 6	Aftermarket CF226X chip sold by Apus Soluções – official distributor of Apex Microelectronics (a member of the Ninestar group)
Sample # 7	Re-programmable aftermarket B73 chip sold by Apex Microelectronics (a member of the Ninestar group)
Sample # 7a	B73 chip programmed to CF226A-N-V2 part number (non-HP cartridge)
Sample # 7b	B73 chip programmed to CF226A-V2 part number (genuine HP cartridge)
Sample # 7c	B73 chip programmed to CF360A-N-V2 part number (non-HP cartridge)
Sample # 7d	B73 chip programmed to CF360A-V2 part number (genuine HP cartridge)
Sample # 8	Original CF226A HP chip
Sample # 9	Original CF361A HP chip



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### 2.3 Tests performed with each chip type (Aftermarket and Counterfeit):

- a. Photo of printer's Initial display
- b. Supply Status screenshot, print out Supply Status Page
- c. Document data in device firmware (M402dn printer)
- d. Document SNMP OID data (M553 printer)
- e. Test Resettable Chips with chip resetting device (Unismart device sold by Apex Microelectronics)
- f. Decapsulation



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#### 3.0 Side by side comparison of user experience.

PURPOSE: Compare user experience when various samples of Aftermarket (AM) chips made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries are installed on cartridges and into the printers. An original HP cartridge will inform the customer that cartridge is "Genuine HP Installed". The printer will display "Non-HP supply installed" when an imitation cartridge is used. Counterfeit cartridges are programmed to inaccurately identify themselves as a "Genuine HP Installed". These messages are displayed on the front panel and supplies status page.

### 3.1 HP LaserJet M402dn printer

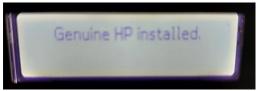
### 3.1.1 Initial display message when toner cartridge is installed

AM chips found on counterfeit CF226X cartridges



Note: User is led to believe that counterfeit cartridges are genuine HP supplies.





Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as a genuine HP cartridge.



Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



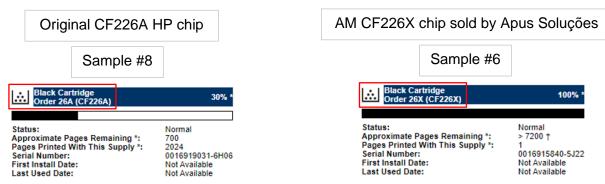
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#### 3.1.2 Supply status page screenshots

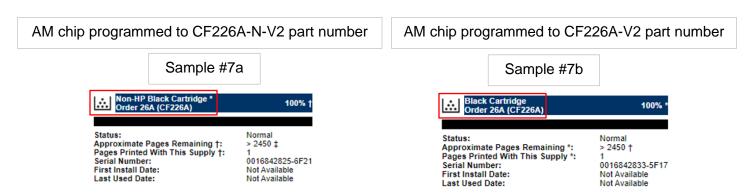
Cartridges with non-original chips are labeled in the Supply status page as "non-HP" as seen with sample #7a. Compatible cartridges which do not have that label, identify themselves as original.



Note: User is led to believe that counterfeit cartridges are genuine HP supplies.



Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as a genuine HP cartridge leading user to believe that it is an original HP cartridge.



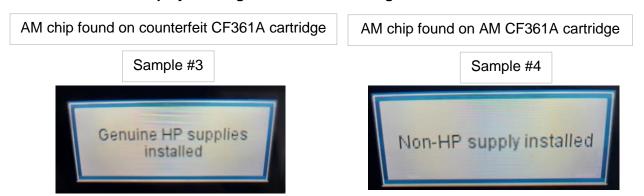
Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to identify the cartridge as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



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#### 3.2 HP Color LaserJet M553dn Printer

#### 3.2.1 Initial display message when toner cartridge is installed



Note: User is led to believe that counterfeit cartridge is a genuine HP cartridge. AM cartridge clearly identified as a non-HP cartridge.



Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as a genuine HP cartridge leading user to believe that it is an original HP cartridge.

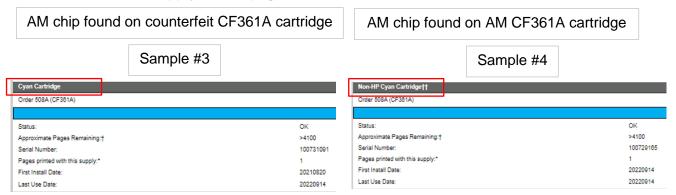


Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.

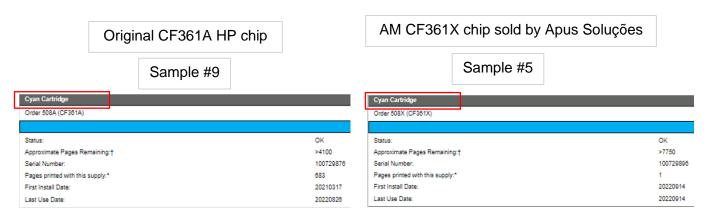


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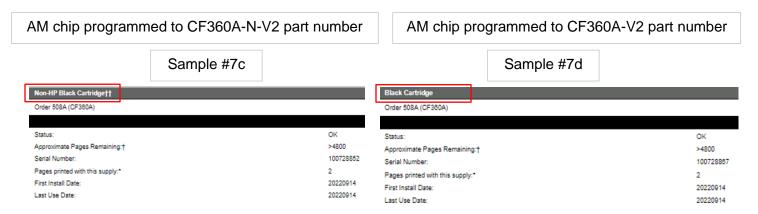
### 3.2.2 Supply status page screenshots



Note: User is led to believe that counterfeit cartridge is a genuine HP cartridge. AM cartridge clearly identified as a non-HP cartridge.



Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as a genuine HP cartridge.



Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



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#### 4.0 Side by side comparison of HP trademark value in printer firmware.

PURPOSE: Compare the behavior of various samples of Aftermarket (AM) chips made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries when installed on cartridges and into the printers as seen by printers' firmware – particularly, unauthorized use of HP as the brand and manufacturer of the supply.

### 4.1 HP LaserJet M402dn printer

This data shows the value of the trademark field as seen in the printer firmware. Note the red boxes for information about the Brand and the Manufacturer of the chips.



Note: AM chips identified counterfeit cartridges as genuine HP supplies.

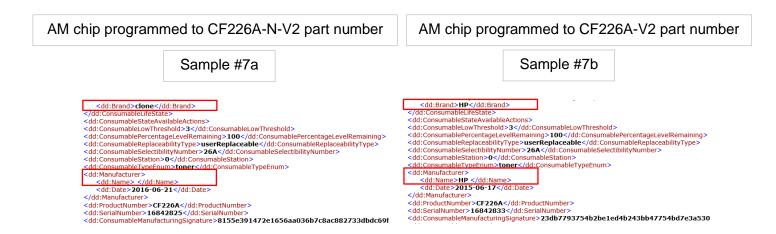


Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as genuine HP.



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#### 4.1 HP LaserJet M402dn printer (continue)



Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed by a 3rd party to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



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#### 4.2 HP LaserJet M553dn printer, SNMP OID Data

This data shows the trademark field as seen by SNMP accessing the printer firmware.

- The value is set to "yèHP when the cartridge is identified as an HP original cartridge.
- The value is set to "yè\_ when the cartridge is identified as an aftermarket cartridge.

```
SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.1.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: "yè SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.4.0 = STRING: "yèHP
```

- The value is set to **01** when the cartridge is identified as an HP original cartridge.
- The value is set to **02** when the cartridge is identified as **a** non-HP cartridge.

```
SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.1.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.2.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 02 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.3.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01
```



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AM CF361X chip sold by Apus Soluções

SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00

### 4.2 HP LaserJet M553dn printer, SNMP OID Data (Continue)

AM chip found on counterfeit CF361A cartridge AM chip found on AM CF361A cartridge Sample #3 Sample #4 NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: "yè SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.4.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.4.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.1.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.2.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 02 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.2.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 5NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.3.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.3.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01

Note: AM chip identified counterfeit cartridge as genuine HP cartridge. AM cartridge identified as a non-HP cartridge.

SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.1.0 = STRING: "vèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: "yèHP SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: "yèHP SN

Note: Off-the-shelf AM chip identified the cartridge as genuine HP.

Original CF361A HP chip

NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01

AM chip programmed to CF360A-N-V2 part number AM chip programmed to CF360A-V2 part number Sample #7c Sample #7d NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.1.0 = STRING: NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.1.0 = STRING: NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.2.0 = STRING: SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.3.0 = STRING: 5NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.4.0 = STRING: "yèHF SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.1.1.20.4.0 = STRING: NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.1.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 02 NMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.1.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.2.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.2.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.3.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.3.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.11.2.3.9.4.2.1.4.1.10.7.4.0 = Hex-STRING: 80 00 00 01

Note: Re-programmable AM chip can be programmed to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



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5.0 Side by side comparison of the die markings on de-capped microcontrollers of the chip samples.

PURPOSE: To confirm if various chip samples tested by the lab were developed and manufactured by the same company. The chip layouts, manufacturer branding, markings and IDs serve as a fingerprint for confirming that the chips are made by the same manufacturer.

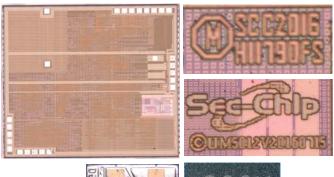
### 5.1 AM chip type 1

AM chip found on counterfeit CF226X cartridge

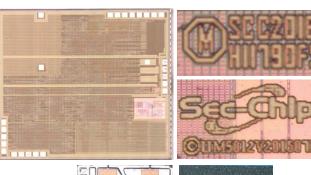
AM CF226X chip sold by Apus Soluções

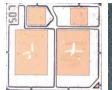
Sample #1

Sample #6





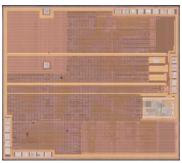






AM CF361X chip sold by Apus Soluções

Sample #5







Note: There is clear evidence that AM chips found on counterfeit CF226X cartridges and AM chips sold by Apus Soluções were developed and manufactured by the same company.



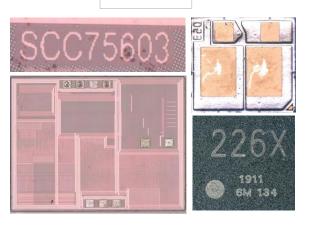
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### 5.2 AM chip type 2

AM chip found on counterfeit CF226X cartridge

AM chip found on counterfeit CF361A cartridge

### Sample #2

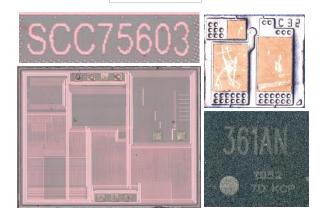


Sample #3



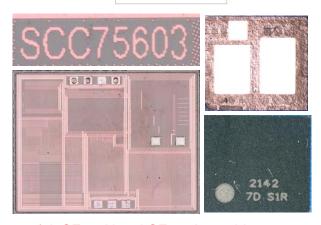
AM chip found on AM CF361A cartridge

Sample #4



Re-programmable AM B73chip

Sample #7



Note: There is clear evidence that AM chips found on counterfeit CF226X and CF361A cartridges, AM chips found on the AM cartridge made by Ninestar, and pre-programmable AM chips were developed and manufactured by the same company.



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### 6.0 Programming AM chips using a Unismart device

PURPOSE: To confirm that re-programmable aftermarket (AM) chips made by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries can be programmed and re-programmed to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge. It further demonstrates that the reprogramming tools distributed by Ninestar, or its subsidiaries, recognize the chips as Ninestar products.

#### 6.1 HP LaserJet M402dn Printer and B73 pre-programmable AM chip

AM chip programmed to CF226A-N-V2 part number

AM chip programmed to CF226A-V2 part number

Sample #7a



Sample #7b

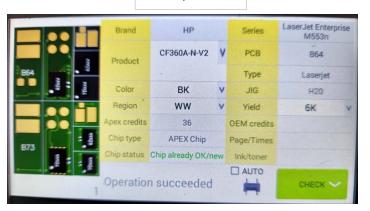


#### 6.2 HP LaserJet M553dn Printer and B73 pre-programmable AM chip

AM chip programmed to CF360A-N-V2 part number

AM chip programmed to CF360A-V2 part number

Sample #7c



Sample #7d



Note: The same re-programmable AM chip can be easily programmed and re-programmed to identify the cartridge either as a genuine HP or as a non-HP cartridge.



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### 6.3 Other programmable AM chip samples

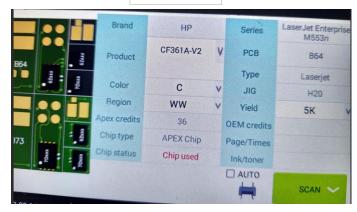
AM chip found on counterfeit CF226X cartridge

Sample #2



AM chip found on counterfeit CF361A cartridge

Sample #3



AM chip found on AM CF361A cartridge

Sample #4



Note: There is clear evidence that AM chips found on counterfeit CF226X and CF361A cartridges are of programmable type and originated from the same manufacturer as AM chips found on the AM cartridge made by Ninestar and pre-programmable AM B73 chips sold by Apex Microelectronics.



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### Annex 1: Chip sample category

	CF226X Sample #1	CF226X Sample #2	CF361A Sample #3
Aftermarket chips found on counterfeit cartridges	und on counterfeit		Fr.
	CF361A Sample #4		
Aftermarket chip found on cartridge made by Ninestar			
	CF361X Sample #5	CF226X Sample #6	
Aftermarket chips sold by Apus Soluções			
	B73 Sample #7		
Re-programmable aftermarket chip sold by Apex Microelectronics			-1
	CF226A Sample #8	CF361A Sample #9	
Original HP chip			



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#### Annex 2: Printer details

### **HP LaserJet M402dn printer**



### **HP Color LaserJet M553dn printer**

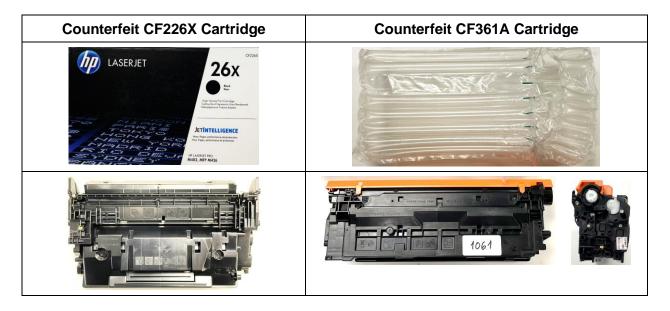




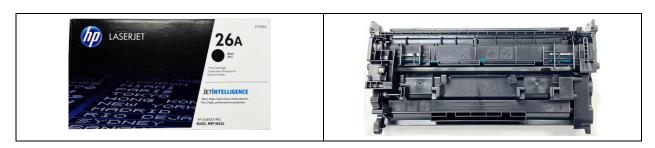
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### **Annex 3: Cartridges and Packaging**

### 3.1 Counterfeit Cartridges and Packaging (CF226X and CF361A)



### 3.2 Original HP CF226A Cartridge and Packaging



### 3.3 Aftermarket CF361A Cartridge Made by Ninestar, with Packaging







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### 3.4 Aftermarket Chips Sold by Apus Soluções – Official Distributor of Apex Microelectronics

