Troubleshooting

The Hydro Indexing Valve must be cammed for the proper number of zones! A 3-zone valve MUST have a 3-zone cam. The active zones are the outlets directly below the numbers on the cam. Inactive zones (outlets that do not have a corresponding number) should be capped off. To change the cam, remove the four screws on the cam cover and lift off. Remove the cam by slightly lifting and rotating until stem lobe slides through slot in cam. Install the new cam with the numbers facing up. Slide the cam down down over the stem by lining the top lobe of the stem up with the slot which goes all the way through on the cam. Line the cam up with the locator pin on valve top. Replace the cam cover and screws. Important! The cam never goes inside of valve top. It is fastened on top of the valve under the cam cover.

Water comes out of more than one zone at a time:
1) There may be insufficient water supply to seal the valve. 10 gpm (gallons per minute) are required for indexing, and 10 psi (pressure per square inch) at the valve, is required to seal valve while each zone is running. A low flow stem & disc is available which only needs 6 gpm to operate system. All valves are sent from factory with a standard flow stem & disc assembly. You may purchase a low flow stem & disc assembly from companies on the distributor page. You can also exchange your stem/disc assembly with the factory for a low flow disc assembly. To exchange your standard stem & disc for low flow send back standard stem & disc, plus $6.00 for shipping to:

Fimco Manufacturing Inc.
15795 Corporate Road N.
Jupiter, Fl 33478

Mark on box “Low Flow Exchange” and include your name, address and phone number. All exchanges are sent back UPS, unless to a P.O. Box
2) Remove valve top and check that nothing is interfering with movement of stem & disc, thus keeping valve from sealing.
3) Make sure active zones have not been capped and water flow is unrestricted.
4) Too many sprinkler heads on a zone can cause insufficient pressure for the disc to seal. Reduce number of sprinkler heads per zone to obtain proper sprinkling pressure.
5) CITY WATER INSTALLATION: Do not use pipes under 1” or solenoid under 1”. Do not hook into a hose bib at the house. For best water supply, run a separate pipe for irrigation, as close as possible to water meter, or plumb into direct water supply before it goes into house.

Valve fails to index:
1) Remove cam cover. Hold cam in place and press down on stem. If there isn’t free movement, remove valve top and take out stem & disc. Check for PVC glue on other debris such as sand or mineral build up. If build up is causing the rubber disc to rub walls of valve bottom, slightly sanding edge of rubber disc may relieve this problem.
2) Check fins on stem. There are two fins on stem. One is on top of cam and one below cam. If either is broken off, replace stem & disc assembly.
3) If fewer than the maximum number of outlets are being used, check that the proper cam is installed. EX: A 4-outlet valve using 3 zones must have a 3-zone cam. Make sure active zones are open and inactive zones are capped off. Active zones are outlets directly under numbers on the cam.

Valve skips zones:
1) The wrong number cam may have been installed or wrong outlets connected. Valve must be cammed for the number of outlets used. EX: a 4-outlet valve using 2 zones must have a 2-zone cam. Active zones are the outlets directly under numbers on the cam. Inactive outlets should be capped off.
2) The pump may be losing its prime, causing water flow to surge. This action causes the valve to cycle quickly several times, skipping one or more zones. Check water flow by removing valve top and watching flow of water while the pump is on. It should be a steady flow and shoot out several feet past the valve. Problems could be the check valve letting water go back into the well. Clean check valve or install a new one. It’s best to install check valve near the suction line of the pump.
3) Seal any pump suction leaks. Replace or install suction line.
4) If pumping out of lakes or canals, check screen for debris.
5) A zone may be higher than valve (causing back flow.) Plumb a check valve at lowest point of incline nearest to valve or raise the Indexing Valve higher than the rest of the system.