

Counterfeit goods arrive in Switzerland in numerous small consignments

Bern, 10 March 2010 – Internet orders and counterfeit goods in luggage lead to approximately twice as many customs interventions in 2009 as in 2008. STOP PIRACY takes appropriate clarification measures.

Counterfeit goods led to nearly twice as many interventions by Swiss customs in 2009 as in 2008 (a total of 2402 cases in 2009 compared to 1297 cases as in the previous year). With commercial imports, customs intervened in 1622 cases in comparison to 1176 cases, and in tourist traffic in 780 compared to 121 cases (although it has only been possible to intervene in tourist traffic since July 2008). A total of 1798 counterfeit goods were discovered altogether in 780 tourist traffic cases whereby several items are usually seized per intervention. Overall, however, the estimated value of seized goods has decreased. Customs were faced with many small consignments - 95% of suspect consignments weighed less than 5kg. In these cases, they were mainly consignments that were sent using postal or courier services.

The most frequently counterfeited items continue to be bags and clothing. Medicines and watches are also often seized due to them infringing on trade mark or design rights. In addition, seizures based on the Therapeutic Products Act (1154 cases in comparison to 687 cases in 2008) as well as seizures based on the Precious Metals Control Act (1065 compared to 1085 in 2008) are also included in these groups.

The majority of counterfeit goods still originate from China except for medicines, whose origin is often Indian. Counterfeit goods are most frequently bought by travellers in Turkey, the EU or in Thailand.

Since July 2008, customs have been commissioned to also intervene when small quantities of counterfeit goods have been brought across the border for exclusive private use whether by post or in luggage. If a private individual orders a counterfeit product online, the delivery can be intercepted in Switzerland and destroyed. This is often an unpleasant surprise for the consumer. They have placed the order with a vendor who has a Swiss or European address and they often do not realise that the delivery comes directly from the production land and that it can be withheld by customs.

The Swiss platform against counterfeiting and piracy, STOP PIRACY - a common initiative between Swiss commerce and the Swiss administration - is strongly committed to informing consumers. Together with the consumers association, Konsumentenforum kf (a member of the STOP PIRACY Association), it has produced a leaflet which uses a check list to show the signs that can help to recognise counterfeit goods. A second leaflet entitled "Bought a counterfeit – what can you do?" explains to consumers how they can fight back against counterfeiters and where they can report cases of counterfeiting. STOP PIRACY will also once again be represented at airports this summer at the beginning of the high travel season in order to warn tourists about the risks and dangers of counterfeit goods, which counterfeiters produce as cheaply as possible by not conforming to safety, quality, environment or employee protection standards. The counterfeiting industry is part of organised crime, which profits at the expense of others.

Enclosures:

- [Custom Statistics 2009 for Counterfeiting and Piracy](#)

Links

- [Custom Statistics 2008 for Counterfeiting and Piracy](#)

- Leaflets ["Recognising Counterfeits"](#) and ["Bought a counterfeit – what can you do?"](#)

(Available in German only)

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