



FY 2022 FACT SHEET

Intellectual Property Rights

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforces Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) most visibly by seizing products that infringe IPR, such as trademarks, copyrights, and patents. The theft of intellectual property and trade in fake goods threaten United States’ economic vitality and national security, as well as the health and safety of the American people. Trade in these illicit goods often help to fund criminal activities and organized crime.

To protect both industry and consumers, CBP has made IPR enforcement a priority trade issue. As a result, CBP has developed a multi-layered, strategic approach to IPR enforcement that includes efforts to educate and engage stakeholders to deter the importation of illicit goods and employs innovative approaches to enforce IPR law at all ports of entry.

In Fiscal Year 2022, CBP seized 20,812 shipments containing counterfeit goods, corresponding to 102,297 seizure lines, which equates to nearly 25 million counterfeit goods. The total estimated manufacturer’s suggested retail price (MSRP) of the seized goods, had they been genuine, was over \$2.98 billion (USD). By value, approximately 82% of these goods originated in or were transshipped through China or Hong Kong.

In addition to seizing goods at U.S. borders, the strategy includes expanding the border through post-import audits of companies that have been caught bringing fake goods into the United States, collaborating with foreign governments and multi-lateral organizations, and working closely with industry and partner government agencies. CBP also issues civil fines and, where appropriate, refers cases to other law enforcement agencies for criminal investigation.

CBP collaborates closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE- HSI) and 25 additional partners at the IPR Center to ensure that IPR border seizures representing criminal activities lead to investigations, arrests, and convictions.

Working with rights holders to use CBP’s web-based tool to record their trademarks and copyrights with CBP is a priority. This program, known as the e-Recordation program, makes information on protected rights available to CBP offices throughout the United States. CBP’s e-Allegations program provides an electronic portal through which the public can report possible IPR violations and other suspected trade violations.

To help educate the public on the dangers of counterfeit goods, CBP hosts “The Truth Behind Counterfeits” public awareness campaign. For more information about this effort visit:

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/fakegoodsrealdangers>.

IPR Resources:

For assistance regarding IPR enforcement, contact IPR help desk at: IPRHELPDESK@cbp.dhs.gov .

To request information on CBP’s recordation program, please contact the IPR Branch at: IPRRQUESTIONS@cbp.dhs.gov .

To request information on CBP’s e-Allegations program, please contact callegations@cbp.dhs.gov .

