



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 America’s 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 such, CBP 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 2021, CBP seized over 27,000 counterfeits with an estimated manufacturer’s suggested retail value of \$3.3 billion, had the goods been genuine. By value, approximately 75% 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 the web-based tool, e-Recordation, to record their trademarks and copyrights with CBP is a priority. Recordation 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: [www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers](http://www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers).

**IPR Resources:**

For assistance regarding IPR enforcement contact the IPR Help Desk at: [iprhelppdesk@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:iprhelppdesk@cbp.dhs.gov)

To request information on CBP’s recordation program, please contact the IPR Branch at: [iprquestions@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:iprquestions@cbp.dhs.gov)

If you have any suspicion of or information regarding suspected fraud, please contact CBP through the e-Allegations website: <https://eallegations.cbp.gov/Home/Index2>

To learn about the CBP IPR response to COVID-19 visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/coronavirus>



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