



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## Intellectual Property Rights

# FACT SHEET

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, and the American people's health and safety. Trade in these illicit goods funds criminal activities and organized crime.

To protect both private industry and consumers, CBP has made IPR enforcement a priority trade issue. CBP has developed a multi-layered, strategic approach to IPR enforcement. 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, collaboration with our trading partners, and partnering with industry and other federal agencies to enhance these efforts. CBP also issues civil fines and, where appropriate, refers cases to other law enforcement agencies for criminal investigation.

CBP uses technology to increase interdiction of fake goods, facilitate partnerships with industry, and enhance enforcement efforts through the sharing of information and intelligence. CBP is refining its risk modeling technology to more accurately identify suspected shipments of counterfeit and pirated goods for inspection.

Rights holders can use our web-based tool, *e-Recordation*, to record their trademarks and

copyrights with CBP. Recordation makes information on protected rights available to CBP offices throughout the United States.



In order to protect both consumers and the trade community, CBP officers routinely intercept counterfeit goods at U.S. borders such as footwear shown here.

Our online trade violation reporting system, *e-Allegations*, makes it easier for the private sector to notify CBP of possible IPR violations and other trade violations.

In IPR audits, an innovative enforcement practice, CBP audits the business records of companies at high risk for importing counterfeits, issues penalties for infringing goods uncovered in the audits, and works with companies to improve their internal controls.

CBP is a partner at the interagency National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center). The IPR Center is designed to leverage the resources and authorities of partner agencies for criminal enforcement of IPR. ❖

In Fiscal Year 2012, there were 22,848 intellectual property rights seizures with a manufacturer's suggested retail value of \$1.26 billion. Goods from China accounted for 72% of the total manufacturer's suggested retail value for all IPR seizures.

### 2012 Top Seized Commodities (by number of seizures)

1. Wearing Apparel/Accessories	6. Watches/Jewelry
2. Consumer Electronics	7. Footwear
3. Optical Media	8. Computers/Hardware/Accessories
4. Handbags/Wallets	9. Labels/Tags
5. Pharmaceuticals/Personal Care	10. Sporting Goods

[www.cbp.gov/ipr](http://www.cbp.gov/ipr)