

Hong Kong Customs combats counterfeit electronic goods activities involving cross-boundary transshipments (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs conducted a two-week enforcement operation from January 8 to 19 to combat counterfeit electronic goods activities involving cross-boundary transshipments. During the operation, Customs detected 19 related cases and seized more than 14 800 items of suspected counterfeit electronic goods, including earphones, mobile phones, computer tablets and electronic watches, with an estimated market value of over \$10 million. Three men were arrested.

Through risk management and intelligence analysis, Customs detected 15 related cases at various express couriers and local logistics companies. More than 9 900 items of suspected counterfeit electronic goods with a total estimated market value of over \$4.7 million were seized.

Moreover, through risk assessment, Customs detected a total of four related cases at the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal and the Shenzhen Bay Control Point. Customs officers intercepted one container and three incoming trucks on January 9, 15 and 16, and seized about 4 900 items of suspected counterfeit electronic goods with an estimated market value of over \$5.9 million in total. Three male truck drivers, aged 43, 60 and 63, were arrested.

Investigations of the above-mentioned cases are ongoing. The three arrested men have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs reminds practitioners in the logistics industry to comply with the requirements of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO) and to check with the trademark owners or authorised agents if the authenticity of a product is in doubt.

Customs will continue to step up inspection and enforcement to vigorously combat different types of counterfeit goods activities.

Under the TDO, any person who imports or exports or sells or possesses for sale any goods to which a forged trademark is applied commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected counterfeiting activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

