

Hong Kong Customs inspects Lunar New Year fairs and promotes anti-infringing messages (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs officers today (January 23) distributed pamphlets to stall operators at various Lunar New Year (LNY) fairs to remind them not to sell infringing goods.

The Divisional Commander (Intellectual Property General Investigation) of Customs, Mr Ho Chun-wing, said that during the LNY period, Customs will conduct inspections at all 15 LNY fairs across the districts and take stringent enforcement actions against infringing activities to protect consumer interests.

As early as last October and November, Customs distributed pamphlets to successful bidders for the LNY Fair stalls, reminding them to be cautious about the authenticity and origin of goods when merchandising. They were also reminded to verify with the corresponding agents or representatives of trademark and copyright owners if in doubt.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with forged trademark commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Under the Copyright Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any infringing goods commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$50,000 per infringing copy and imprisonment for four years.

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Members of the public may report any suspected infringing activities to Customs 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

