

Hong Kong Customs steps up enforcement action against counterfeit goods activities with approach of Christmas and New Year holidays (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs today (December 12) conducted a special operation in Mong Kok to combat the sale of counterfeit goods and seized about 7 000 items of suspected counterfeit goods with an estimated market value of about \$900,000.

Customs earlier conducted patrols and discovered some hawker stalls selling suspected counterfeit goods in Mong Kok. After investigations, Customs officers took enforcement action today and raided a number of fixed-pitch and mobile hawker stalls on Tung Choi Street where the batch of suspected counterfeit goods, including handbags, leather goods, jerseys, was seized.

During the operation, two women, aged 45 and 70, were arrested.

An investigation is ongoing.

With the Christmas and New Year approaching, Customs will continue to step up inspection and enforcement to vigorously combat different kinds of counterfeit goods activities before and during the holidays.

Customs reminds consumers to procure goods at reputable shops and to check with the trademark owners or their authorised agents if the authenticity of a product is in doubt. Traders should be cautious and prudent in merchandising since the sale of counterfeit goods is a serious crime and offenders are liable to criminal sanctions.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with a forged trademark 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).

