

Hong Kong Customs steps up enforcement against counterfeit goods activities (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (December 22) conducted a special operation in Mong Kok to combat the sale of counterfeit goods and seized about 4 300 items of suspected counterfeit goods with an estimated market value of about \$260,000.

Customs earlier conducted patrols and discovered some hawker stalls selling suspected counterfeit goods in Mong Kok. After investigation, Customs officers took enforcement action yesterday and raided a number of fixed-pitch and mobile hawker stalls, and an upstairs counterfeit goods storage centre on Tung Choi Street. The batch of suspected counterfeit goods, including handbags, clothes, caps and daily necessities, was seized.

During the operation, Customs arrested two women aged 39 and 63.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs will continue to step up inspection and enforcement to vigorously combat different kinds of counterfeit goods activities during the Christmas and New Year 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. Also, 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 infringing activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

