

ILLICIT TRADE: A GLOBAL CONCERN

Trafficking in illicit goods includes such practices as counterfeiting, piracy, the smuggling of legitimate products and tax evasion. Selling counterfeit (fake) products as the real thing is one component of illicit trafficking, as is selling genuine goods on the black market to avoid paying taxes.

A clear link has been established between the trafficking of illicit goods and transnational organized crime. Criminal organizations have harnessed the power of technology to cash in on the lucrative profits involved in trading counterfeit goods, or trading legitimate goods through illicit channels. They then use those profits to fund other criminal activities such as drug or human trafficking, people smuggling or piracy.

A MULTIFACETED RESPONSE

The INTERPOL Trafficking in Illicit Goods and Counterfeiting Programme works to identify, disrupt and dismantle the transnational criminal organizations behind illicit trade. We coordinate regional and global operations to break up the criminal networks and to remove any dangerous or substandard products from circulation. Specialized training programmes equip investigators worldwide with the skills necessary to identify and combat illicit trade, and police are able to share information globally and analyse trends using INTERPOL's networks and databases.

Our activities are focused on five core areas:

- ▶ ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
- ▶ CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING
- ▶ LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- ▶ RAISING AWARENESS
- ▶ I-CHECKIT

ABOUT INTERPOL

Connecting police for a safer world

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 190 member countries. Our role is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place. Our high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support helps meet the growing challenges of fighting crime in the 21st century.

Only through international cooperation can police hope to tackle today's criminals. We work to ensure that police around the world can instantly share and access the relevant data necessary to assist their investigations through secure communications channels. We facilitate police cooperation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries, in line with INTERPOL's objective of political neutrality.

The targeted training, expert investigative support and global networks offered by INTERPOL help police on the ground to coordinate their efforts to make the world a safer place.



INTERPOL

TRAFFICKING IN ILLICIT GOODS AND COUNTERFEITING PROGRAMME



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**TURN
BACK
CRIME**

March 2015

ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

Held in conjunction with member countries, our operations cover different regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East and North Africa) and different illicit and counterfeited goods (i.e. electronics, clothing, toys, cigarettes, alcohol, food products). Each operation is preceded by training and an operational planning meeting to acquaint local law enforcement with the required skills.

Operations consist of raids at markets, shops and warehouses, as well as searches at border points. Operations have revealed a clear link to organized crime, money laundering, trafficking in drugs and firearms and environmental crime, reinforcing the need to protect the public and dismantle the illegal networks behind illicit trade.

Organized crime networks exploit new technology, differences among national regulatory regimes and links between the global economic, finance and transportation systems for their own gain. They use the profits to fund other criminal activities such as drug trafficking, people smuggling and robbery.

The INTERPOL Trafficking and Counterfeiting Casebook is the first publicly released study to provide comprehensive evidence of these links. It is available on the INTERPOL website.

I-CHECKIT

Engaging the private sector and law enforcement in global security is the goal of I-Checkit. Selected partner organizations in the travel, tourism and banking industries can send customer passport data to be screened against INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database to detect the use of stolen travel documents and related criminal activities. Police and individuals will be able to scan products using a mobile device to determine whether the goods could be counterfeit or illicitly traded.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

We carry out a variety of training activities to equip investigators around the world with the knowledge and skills necessary to combat trafficking in illicit goods and counterfeiting.

Regional training and operational workshops

Our regional and international training events are designed to enhance the ability of the law enforcement community to combat all types of illicit trade. Each workshop brings together representatives from every step of the investigative process, including police, customs, prosecution services, the judiciary, revenue authorities and brand holders to:

- ▶ Present their own case studies and experiences;
- ▶ Explain the nature and impact of illicit trade in their country;
- ▶ Train law enforcement officers on the latest techniques and procedures;;
- ▶ Provide an understanding of the relevant legal frameworks;
- ▶ Support multi-agency interaction and information exchange.

Online training

The International Intellectual Property Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC) is a fully interactive online intellectual property (IP) crime training facility. It is designed to benefit law enforcement, regulatory authorities and private sector investigators.

The college delivers leading edge training to enable investigators to effectively combat current and emerging threats from the transnational organized networks behind trafficking in illicit goods. Introductory and intermediate level courses are available, and students who complete both levels will receive special certification. The college also offers industry specific modules.

Seminars

Attended by officers from police, customs and regulatory bodies, our training seminars ensure that investigators are equipped with the tools they need in order to identify, target and dismantle transnational organized crime groups.

RAISING AWARENESS

A crucial component of the fight against the organized criminal networks involved in trafficking in illicit goods and counterfeiting is the need to raise awareness and promote action by consumers, businesses and governments.

INTERPOL's answer is "Turn Back Crime". This is a global campaign developed by INTERPOL which uses a variety of innovative methods – including social media – to educate the public on the links between different types of crimes and how to stay safe. Among its many aims, the campaign will promote understanding of all types of illicit trade, including counterfeiting, piracy, the smuggling of legitimate products and tax evasion, and the effects they have on society.

The campaign targets the following audiences:

- ▶ Consumers
- ▶ Businesses
- ▶ Law enforcement authorities
- ▶ Governments

We also organize, along with key partners, annual events which bring together essential stakeholders to discuss and develop practical solutions, develop actionable strategies for combating trafficking in illicit goods and target daily operational needs.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

INTERPOL offers legal support to member countries, strengthening their ability to undertake effective legal responses when dealing with trafficking in illicit goods. We also aim to develop a network for dialogue among legal experts, international organizations and private industry, as well as law enforcement and criminal justice institutions.

INTERPOL's legal support includes:

- ▶ **Legal assistance programmes:** to help member countries establish solid domestic legal frameworks and effective channels for international cooperation, namely through the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments;
- ▶ **Capacity building and training:** organized on national and international levels for various stakeholders, including government officials, prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officers;
- ▶ **International conferences and forums:** bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to raise awareness about the legal aspects of trafficking in illicit goods and promote the adoption of a common strategy to tackle it.

