



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations



COMMERCIAL FRAUD UNIT TRADE FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), in close cooperation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), investigates commercial fraud, including false statements and deceptive business practices. HSI's National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) focuses and prioritizes protecting U.S. economic interests, national security and the health and safety of our nation's people. The IPR Center has responsibility for the following trade fraud programs:

- **The Health and Safety Program** focuses on investigations regarding the illegal importation of certain restricted merchandise into the United States commerce. Examples of such merchandise include adulterated honey or honey containing antibiotics, or flame resistant clothing for children.
- **The Textile Program** involves investigations of criminal and civil violations of customs laws carried out through a variety of fraudulent schemes and practices to undervalue textiles entered into the U.S. for consumption such as false invoicing, false claims of origin, false markings/labeling, misclassification, misdescription, and smuggling.
- **The Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Programs** involves investigations of schemes to evade the payment of duties imposed on certain imports to help domestic producers compete against foreign suppliers engaged in or benefiting from dumping and export subsidies.
- **The In-Bond Diversion Program** involves investigations of the diverted entry of goods into the United States by exploiting the in-bond system, including the targeting of foreign goods that are illegally transshipped through the United States on transportation and exportation bonds, and subsequently exported from the United States as falsely-declared U.S.-origin goods.
- **The Trade Agreements Program** target illegal importation and exportation of products in violation of free trade agreements. For example, legitimate trade between the United States and Mexico is being adversely impacted by illegal importation and exportation of products between the United States and Mexico in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, resulting in the loss of revenue for both countries.
- **The Forced Labor Program** involves investigations of the illegal importation of merchandise mined, manufactured or produced, wholly or in part, in any foreign country, through the use of forced labor, prison labor, and/or indentured labor under penal sanctions (including forced child labor).
- **The Tobacco Program** involves investigations of the domestic and international smuggling of cigarettes, trafficking in counterfeit and stolen cigarettes, and international money laundering investigations where one of the underlying crimes is tobacco-related.
- **The Environmental Crimes Program** involves investigations of the importation and exportation of endangered and non-native detrimental species; unapproved or non-compliant automobiles, machinery and other equipment; environmentally hazardous materials and chemicals; prohibited and contaminated animal and vegetable food products. Active participant in the **Presidential Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking**. The Task Force was established by presidential executive order to develop a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and to develop recommendations to include Wildlife Trafficking in the Administration's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

