



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations



CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

OPERATION SURGE PROTECTOR

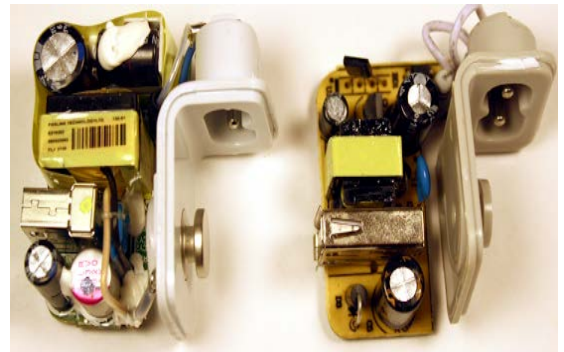
The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) initiated Operation Surge Protector in December 2016 to target the sale and trafficking of counterfeit consumer electronics and technology products. From personal electronics such as headphones to smartphones and related accessories like power adapters and charging cords and devices, consumers are unknowingly at increasing risk of bringing home dangerous devices which pose health and safety risks to the public.



Operation Surge Protector combines the expertise of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in the execution of investigations, as well as operations at international mail facilities, express consignment carrier facilities, and ports of entry throughout the United States.



Counterfeit electrical products pose high risks to public health and safety as these products are often manufactured with inferior materials through sub-standard processes, without regard for any labeled ratings, certifications, or customer safety requirements. This can lead to increased risk of malfunctions that may cause serious injuries, including electrical shock and death.



This criminal trade in counterfeit electronic components has resulted in millions of counterfeit electrical products entering supply chains the world over, including recent examples of: circuit breakers that do not trip when overloaded; extension cords with undersized wiring that overheats; batteries and chargers without a safety device in the circuitry to prevent overcharging; holiday lights that pose fire hazards; small appliances that lack ground-fault circuit interrupters to protect users against electrical shock; and ineffective surge protectors.

