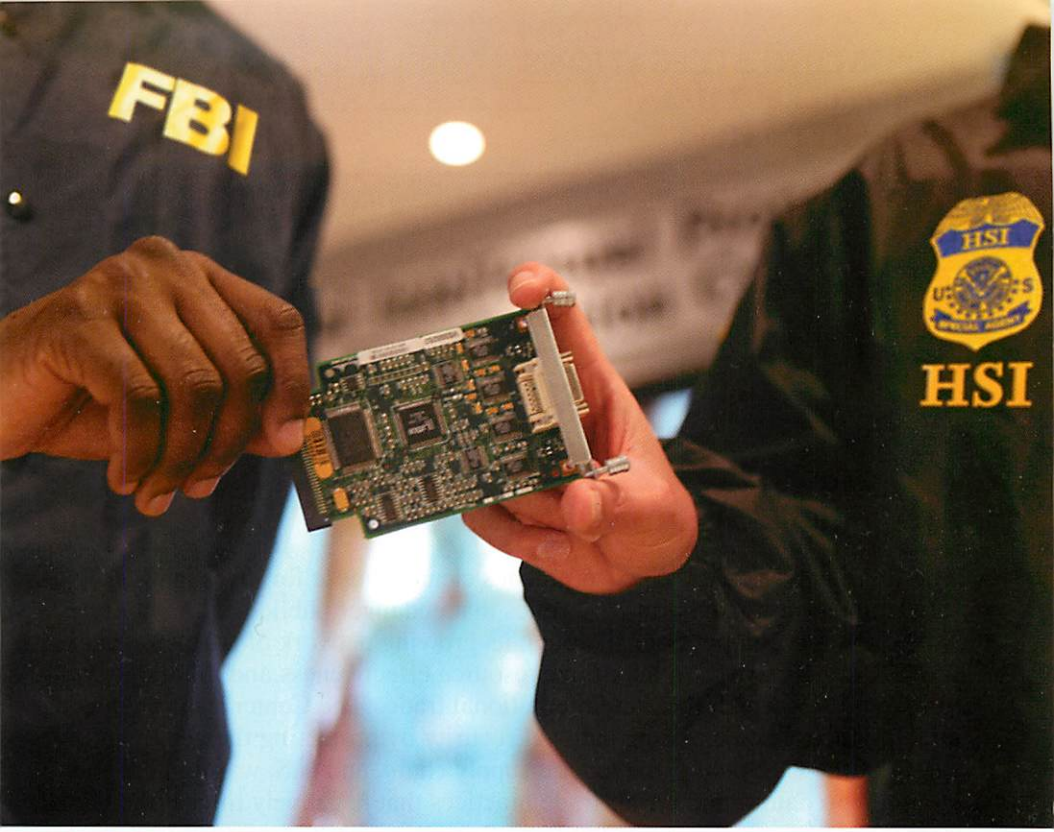

Reporting Allegations of Intellectual Property Theft

National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT

Counterfeiting and piracy pose a severe threat to the U.S. economy and workforce, and instances of intellectual property rights (IPR) theft continue to grow in both magnitude and complexity. The proliferation of counterfeit goods is increasing at an alarming rate, as constant technological advances simplify and facilitate the production of counterfeit goods. The nature of IPR crime is also changing, with investigations uncovering links to organized crime and groups that support terrorism. The National IPR Coordination Center strives to combat this emergent transnational threat through partnerships with domestic and international law enforcement, trade organizations, rights holders, and international organizations.

The National IPR Coordination Center

The IPR Center is the U.S. government's clearinghouse for investigations into counterfeiting and piracy—crimes that endanger public health, public safety and fair competition. Through its growing network of partner agencies, the IPR Center strives to maximize resource effectiveness and mitigate vulnerabilities which threaten international trade. The Center's enforcement strategy focuses on ensuring national security by protecting the health and safety of the U.S. public, the federal supply chain, and U.S. war fighters and stopping predatory and unfair trade practices that negatively impact the global economy.

The IPR Center uses the unique authorities, resources and expertise of its member agencies to share information, manage investigative leads, coordinate investigations, and provide training and assistance to federal, state, local and international law enforcement agencies. Since most counterfeit goods are produced internationally, IPR Center partner agencies' attaché offices work with domestic field offices to coordinate investigations with host country law enforcement, and work with industry and their counterparts on trade related matters.

Making a Referral to the IPR Center

The IPR Center encourages members of the general public, rights holders, trade associations, law enforcement and government agencies to report instances of IPR theft. The information you provide will be reviewed promptly by IPR Center staff and disseminated for appropriate investigative response and tactical use to IPR Center partners. When reporting a suspected violation, please provide as much of the following information as possible. To make a referral, please use the contact information provided on the back of this pamphlet or use our referral mechanism at www.iprcenter.gov.

When reporting a suspected violation, please provide as much of the following information as possible. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

- **Referrer**
  - Name and contact information. Your report is anonymous unless you identify yourself. However, not doing so may impede efforts to initiate an investigation. If you provide contact information, you will be notified if the IPR Center may need additional information to pursue an investigation
- **Rights Holder**
  - Name and contact information if different than above
  - Any registration of the copyright or trademark with the U.S. Copyright Office or the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
  - Any recordation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- **Alleged Violator**
  - Name, business name, address, domain name, and any other identifiers
  - Reason for suspicion of IPR theft
  - Type of alleged infringement (e.g. manufacture, reproduction, import, export, distribution, etc.)
  - Any prior, ongoing, or contemplated civil actions
- **Description of Commodity**
  - Photograph or sample, if possible
  - Explanation why this is an infringing commodity
  - Approximate value of the item if it were genuine (manufacturer's suggested retail price)
  - Estimated loss to industry resulting from the infringement
- **Origin and Entry**
  - Country of origin of the infringing item
  - Any involved foreign persons or businesses
  - Date, location, and mode of entry into the United States
  - Names of shippers, Harmonized Tariff Schedule designation, and any other applicable information
- **Description of Crime**
  - Discovery of the alleged crime
  - Examination reports of the infringing goods, if any
  - Whether an internal investigation has been conducted
  - Description of any evidence acquired
  - Scope of the theft or counterfeiting operation
  - Estimated quantity and time period of illegal distribution
  - Location of distribution and location of counterfeiting activity
- **Internet Involvement**
  - Primary URL or business name of the alleged infringer
  - Identity and location of the individual or entity operating the site
  - Number and identification of any affiliate websites
  - Location of servers and website host
  - Registration of domain name in the United States
  - Whether an internal investigation or test buys have been conducted
  - Whether the rights holder has sent a cease and desist notice to the site
  - Any financial accounts belonging to the alleged violator, with identified financial institutions or payment processors

National Intellectual Property Rights
Coordination Center
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 200
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