



25 October 2016

(16-5830)

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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights**

Original: English

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

Addendum

At its meeting of 7-8 June 2016, the Council for TRIPS agreed to invite intergovernmental organization observers to the Council to update the information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

The present document reproduces the information which has been received from the World Customs Organization (WCO) by means of a communication dated 14 October 2016.

1 OVERVIEW OF WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO) ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS OF RELEVANCE TO THE TRIPS AGREEMENT

1. Given its resolve to protect consumer health and safety, the WCO continues to combat counterfeiting and piracy through the following activities and tools.

1.1 Large-scale operations

2. The WCO organizes simultaneous enforcement activities with multiple Customs administrations. These operations are aimed at gauging the scale of global counterfeiting whilst providing participating Customs officers with hands-on experience. Between October 2015 and September 2016, the WCO organized three large-scale operations: Action IPR in the Asia Pacific region, SEASCAPE in Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean, and ACIM in Central Africa. The impact of such a substantial level of intervention over a short space of time sends a strong message both to offenders and the general public.

1.2 National/regional seminars

3. The WCO delivers extensive capacity building activities, mainly in the form of legislative training, document targeting training and product identification training, with private sector cooperation. Between October 2015 and September 2016, the WCO conducted training seminars/workshops for officers from a number of WCO Member administrations.

1.3 Interface Public-Members (IPM)

4. The WCO's tool against counterfeiting has undergone a redesign this year, both visually and architecturally, in order to tailor the features and functionalities to the needs of Customs officers and right holders alike. Particular emphasis has been put on the mobile application, to enhance the use of the platform in the field, outside the office.

1.4 Counterfeit and Piracy Group meeting

5. The annual WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group meeting provides a forum for Customs and related law enforcement agencies to exchange information, experiences and best practices on combating counterfeiting and piracy. At its 12th Meeting from 28 to 30 October 2015, Members agreed to create a global practice note on combating counterfeiting and piracy called "exchange of practices". Exchange of practices will be presented at the 13th CAP Group Meeting from 28 to 30 November 2016.

1.5 E-learning module (CLiCK)

6. By using the WCO's internet-based e-learning module "CLiCK", Customs officers can acquire practical knowledge on border enforcement related to intellectual property rights (IPR). They can train themselves on intellectual property (IP) agreements, such as the TRIPS Agreement, and on practical, risk-based document targeting.

2 WCO-LED OPERATIONS IN 2015/2016

7. Operations entail simultaneous enforcement activities conducted by multiple Customs administrations, focusing on targeted products. Operations, which quantify and qualify the impact of counterfeit activities, can also serve as an excellent opportunity to strengthen Customs' enforcement capacity. Participating Members are able to learn about practical border enforcement measures through our Accredited Experts and gain hands-on experience using WCO tools, such as IPM and CENcomm. Between October 2015 and September 2016, the WCO conducted three large-scale operations in different parts of the world and with different scopes.

2.1 Action IPR

8. ACTION IPR A/P is the first joint enforcement action against counterfeiting and piracy in the Asia/Pacific Region, aimed at targeting illicit products that endanger people's health and safety. This Operation was carried out from 23 November to 4 December 2015, and was participated by 26 countries in the A/P region.

9. The participating countries took part in the pre-operational Workshop organized from 21 to 23 September 2015 in Malaysia. In the Workshop, they were trained to understand the scope, objective and the practical steps of the Operation, including learning the reporting process of the Operation, good practices and practical measures on product identification with right holders.

10. During the Operation, participated countries raised the level of enforcement on IPR and health and safety-related products, resulting in the interception of 521,602 items (countable) and 201,951 kg (non-countable), across 498 cases. Pharmaceutical products were the most frequently intercepted, while spare parts and foodstuffs were intercepted in the largest volumes.

2.2 Operation SEASCAPE

11. Operation SEASCAPE took place in nine countries of Central America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Chili, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) from 11 to 22 April 2016. The Operation was preceded by the pre-operational Workshop from 6 to 8 April 2016 in Panama.

12. The Workshop and Operation primarily focused on goods related to the Sporting Goods Industry and substandard Automotive Parts, while maintaining a general focus on all counterfeit and pirated goods, particularly those that may pose a threat to health and safety.

13. This Operation resulted in the interception of 4,567,833 items (countable) and 2,102 kg (non-countable) for a reported market value of over US\$46 million.

2.3 Operation ACIM

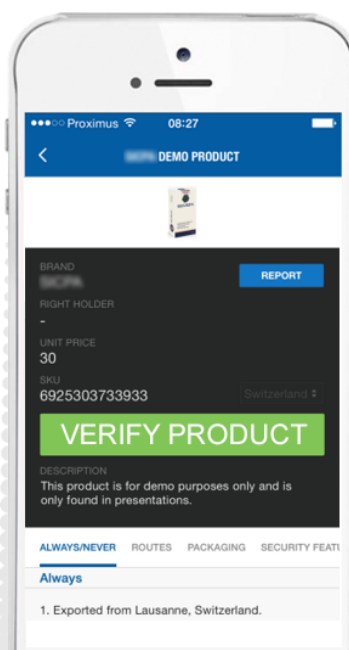
14. The WCO, in close cooperation with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) and under the co-sponsorship of the Institute of Research against Counterfeit Medicines (IRACM), organized Operation "ACIM" (Action against Counterfeit and Illicit Medicines) in Central Africa from 5 to 14 September 2016.

15. Prior to the Operation, the WCO organized an IPR, Health & Safety pre-operational Workshop in Mombasa from 31 August to 2 September 2016 with main focus on the Pharmaceutical Industry.

16. Operation "ACIM" mobilized the resources of 16 Customs administrations within selected countries in Central Africa (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Togo) to conduct simultaneous inspections of consignments that may potentially contain certain types of counterfeit and/or illicit pharmaceutical products. Interpol supported the Workshop as well as the Operation.

17. By 16 September, over 97 million units, mainly medicines and veterinary products, were intercepted.

3 IPM TOOL DEVELOPMENTS



18. The IPM web and mobile platform continues to evolve after having undergone a visual and architectural redesign in September 2015, incorporating new features to facilitate both the use of the application itself and the access to multiple sources of actionable information for Customs officers.

3.1 Multi-lingual support

19. The IPM interface has been available in English, French and recently also Arabic was added. Following members' requests, the Russian language has now also been added; as a result, the IPM Platform is now available in four languages, continuously lowering communication barriers. New languages will be added in line with the growth of our IPM user community.

3.2 GSMA

20. One of the most notable and most recent developments is the ability for IPM users to perform IMEI and MEID mobile device verification, thanks to an agreement the WCO has completed with GSMA. This feature enables Customs officers to scan IMEI as well as MEID codes on mobile devices and verify against the GSMA database. Doing so combines the GSMA information with data already made available by the right holder on the IPM Platform.

3.3 GS1 – GDSN Synchronization

21. More than 35,000 companies producing consumer goods have already adopted the use of GS1's GDSN standards. GDSN is a network of data pools that enable companies around the world to exchange product information in a standardized format. Right holders that make their GDSN electronic product catalogues available through the IPM Platform, dramatically increase the level and quality of information available to Customs officers. Furthermore, synchronizing right holders' GDSN electronic product catalogues with the IPM Platform ensures that all right holders' products are correctly referenced, up-to-date and searchable via their barcode.

3.4 Security Solutions linked to IPM

22. Over the past years the WCO has been working closely with an increasing number of Security Solution Providers allowing Customs officers to verify the authenticity of products online, greatly increasing the operational efficiency of the IPM platform. Better integration of right holder' data and interoperability with their traceability solutions will lead to higher efficiency and usage of the IPM Platform.

ANNEX¹

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN THE TRIPS AREA FROM 1 OCTOBER 2015 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

Category	From	To	Year	Location	Countries	Activity	Other organization
National Seminar	18 Jan	22 Jan	2016	Georgia		National Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy	
National Seminar	8 Feb	12 Feb	2016	Ukraine		National Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy	
National Seminar	29 Feb	4 Mar	2016	India		National Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy	
National Seminar	26 Sep	26 Sep	2016	India		Training Programme for Indian Customs Officials on Trademark Border Enforcement	JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization)
National Workshop	1 Aug	4 Aug	2016	Myanmar		National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy	
Regional Seminar	2 Mar	4 Mar	2016	Japan		Regional Seminar for OIE(Office International des Epizooties or World Organization For Animal Health) National Focal Points for Veterinary Products	OIE(Office International des Epizooties or World Organization For Animal Health)
Regional Seminar	14 Mar	18 Mar	2016	Malaysia		17 th Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference	

¹ In English only.

Category	From	To	Year	Location	Countries	Activity	Other organization
Regional Workshop	21 Mar	23 Mar	2016	Thailand	Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Myanmar, Vanuatu, Vietnam	Post-Action Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action Against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region	
Operation	6 Apr	22 Apr	2016	Central America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	SEASCAPE	
Operation	31 Aug	14 Sep	2016	Central Africa	Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo	ACIM	IRACM (Institute of Research Against Counterfeit Medicines)