

e-commerce

A tremendous range of products is now sold online. This means that more and more counterfeit products are finding their way into private homes via mail delivery.

Bargain-priced goods from all over the world – a world that is just a click away, 24 hours a day – can tempt people to make what often turn out to be imprudent purchases.

Just like in real marketplaces, scam artists prowl online markets as well.

- If customs identifies counterfeit goods in the mail, the goods will be confiscated, and the original manufacturer may even sue for damages.

For this reason, it's good to exercise a bit of healthy distrust on virtual marketplaces. When in doubt, it's better to save your click for a trustworthy seller.

Impressum

Published by:
Central Customs Authority
– Public Relations –
Am Propsthof 78 a
53121 Bonn, Germany

Last updated:
January 2020

Registration number:
90 SAB 222

Design and production:
Central Customs Authority,
Training and Knowledge Centre
of the federal revenue administration

Images:
BWZ, CCvision

Service

For further information, contact the Zentralstelle Gewerblicher Rechtsschutz (central office for intellectual property rights):

- Central Customs Authority,
Zentralstelle Gewerblicher Rechtsschutz
Sophienstraße 6
80333 München, Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 89 – 59 95 – 23 15
Fax: +49 (0) 89 – 59 95 – 23 17
E-Mail: DVIA24.gzd@zoll.bund.de

or online at
www.zoll.de



Central Customs Authority



German customs –
On the lookout for counterfeit
and pirated goods



Beware of holiday bargains that can turn out to be expensive!

Brand-name watches, designer handbags, luxury sunglasses ...

... supposed brand-name products are offered at suspiciously low prices to tourists in the mood to buy, especially when they're on holiday abroad.



But beware! Many “deals” turn out to be cheap fakes. When this happens, seemingly inexpensive holiday souvenirs can actually be disappointing counterfeits that aren't worth the money and that can cause a lot of trouble and annoyance.



So remember:

To curb the trade in imitation brand-name products, German customs can confiscate counterfeit goods brought into the country by people travelling from non-EU states if a commercial purpose is evident.

Risks to consumers

- Toxic dyes, poorly cushioned athletic shoes, adulterated creams – all of these can cause lasting harm to your health.
- If you buy a fake product, you have no warranty rights with the original manufacturer.
- The original manufacturer may even sue for damages.

A threat to the economy

People who engage in piracy take no entrepreneurial risks. Instead, they steal ideas and produce low-quality imitations of popular goods.

- This results in significant revenue losses for original manufacturers and incalculable risks for consumers and the environment.
- So: Don't buy counterfeit products – for the sake of your health, and for the sake of the national economy.

**To protect consumers and the economy:
Steer clear of imitation brand-name goods!**



Find out more at www.zoll.de.