

## Protect Your Company Against Domestic Intellectual Property Rights Infringements

Many U.S. companies acknowledge that Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements are a significant problem in certain overseas markets. However, **IPR violations are surfacing domestically** as well. Manufacturers are encouraged to remain vigilant in identifying and reporting these violations.

**To protect manufacturers against domestic IPR infringements, the U.S. Department of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has developed specific procedures.** These procedures are summarized below, with helpful contact information. **Please note that your product must be registered in advance with CBP in order for the Agency to take action against IPR violators in the U.S.** You may wish to save this fact sheet for future reference, or forward it to someone in your company responsible for IPR issues.

### **Registering Products**

Registering your products with CBP is the first step toward protecting your company against IPR infringements in the U.S. Product registration enables CBP to investigate criminal complaints alleging IPR infringement that your company may potentially file. To register, fill out and mail the CBP *Copyright/Trademark Recordation Application Template*, found on the website below.

#### **Copyright/Trademark Recordation Application Template:**

- [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

### **Customs Coordination at U.S. Ports**

To coordinate CBP monitoring of your products in U.S. ports, contact an IPR international trade specialist at CBP's *Los Angeles Strategic Trade Center*. The LA Center assists in the development of product training materials and coordination of product identification training at CBP ports; monitors specific importers for IPR violations; and compiles IPR seizure statistics by commodity and source country.

#### **LA Strategic Trade Center Contact Information:**

- [ipr.helpdesk@dhs.gov](mailto:ipr.helpdesk@dhs.gov)
- Telephone (562) 980-3119

### **Legal or Policy Related Questions**

For legal or policy related questions, or to interface with a CBP IPR attorney, please contact CBP's *Office of Regulations and Rulings, IPR and Restrictions Branch* in Washington, D.C. The IPR Branch is responsible for developing CBP legal enforcement policy.

#### **Office of Regulations and Rulings IPR Branch Contact Information:**

- E-mail [hqiprbranch@dhs.gov](mailto:hqiprbranch@dhs.gov)
- Telephone 202-572-8700

### **Criminal Complaints**

Suspected IPR criminal violations in the U.S. should be reported to the *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center)*. The Center's online *Complaint Referral Form* can be found on the ICE website listed below. Information submitted to the ICE IPR Center is disseminated for appropriate investigative and tactical use.

**It is important to register before filing a complaint.**

#### **Online Complaint Referral Form:**

- <http://www.ice.gov/partners/cornerstone/ipr/IPRForm.htm>

#### **IPR Center Hotline:**

- 202-344-2410; 1-866-IPR-2060; 1-800-477-2060