

# HAUL OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN MELBOURNE

Customs detected more than 20,000 counterfeit items, including prominent brands of handbags, wallets and stuffed toys, in Melbourne.

The detection of the goods, imported from China, represents one of the biggest single detections made by Customs under Australia's trademark-protection laws.

Customs Regional Director Jenny Peachey said an inspection of both containers had uncovered nearly 3.5 tonnes of items suspected of breaching the *Trade Marks Act 1995*.

Ms Peachey said the items included:

- handbags and wallets branded as Coco Chanel, Calvin Klein, Burberry, Hugo Boss and others
- toys, bags and stationery
- backpacks, beanies, scarves and bags branded as Nike, Adidas, Timberland and Mercedes products, and
- batteries labelled as "Durasell".

The matter was passed to the Australian Federal Police for further investigation.

Ms Peachey said Customs had notified the legitimate brand owners of these goods as per the requirements of the *Trade Marks Act 1995*. "The brand owners have lodged formal objections to the importation of these goods on the grounds that they infringed their intellectual property," she said.

"The importer has the option of forfeiting the goods but, if this does not occur, then the brand owners may take legal action."

Customs had a responsibility to protect legitimate Australian businesses and consumers from counterfeit imports and it was important that importers complied with trademark legislation and check with Customs in advance of importing such goods.

