

ONLINE IP FRAUD: *Tip Sheet*



How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

- **IF A DEAL SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS**

- **BEWARE OF UNSOLICITED OR SPAM EMAIL OFFERS**

- **KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH**

Check the manufacturer's website to identify authorized retailers.

- **BE SUSPICIOUS OF WEBSITES THAT DO NOT PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION**

- **PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS**

Don't give away personal details unnecessarily and don't reveal passwords or PIN numbers.

- **BE CAREFUL HOW YOU PAY**

Consider using a credit card to protect your purchase. Buy goods online through secure and encrypted payment systems, don't be drawn off the site to other forms of payments, and consider separate credit cards or accounts for online shopping. Be wary if the seller only accepts wire transfers or cash.

- **BE CAUTIOUS OF WEBSITES WITH:**

- ⇒ *inaccurate grammar, misspellings, punctuation errors, and nonsensical sentences throughout its site;*
- ⇒ *FAQ sections explaining its policies for customs seizures;*
- ⇒ *terms such as replica, knockoff or "cheap" in its name or advertising; and*
- ⇒ *discounted prices which are further discounted if purchased in bulk.*



Source: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Public Affairs

Online Pharmaceutical Fraud: Red Flags



- Site offers drugs at a price significantly lower than local pharmacies.
- Site offers "generic" product or drugs not marked by the manufacturer.
- Site offers higher or different product doses than the manufacturer.
- Site uses email to direct visitors to its webpage. Legitimate manufacturers will never send emails unless specifically requested.
- Site does not list a street address or contact information.

For additional recommendations about safely buying medicine over the Internet, please visit:

www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/BuyingMedicinesOvertheInternet/default.htm

Contact the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center:

Homeland Security Investigations
National IPR Coordination Center
2451 Crystal Drive, STOP 5105
Arlington, VA 20598-5105

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