



Homeland Security Investigations Intellectual Property Unit

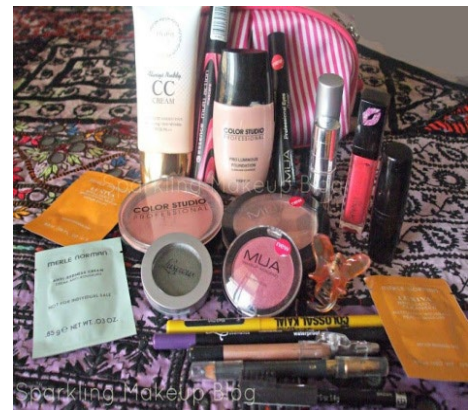


PERSONAL CARE & MEDICAL DEVICES

OPERATION BODY ARMOR

The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) is leading the government's response to intellectual property theft, a crime that leads to lost revenue for American industry, a loss of American jobs, and often poses a threat to public health and safety. Operation Body Armor is an IPR Center initiative targeting the smuggling or illegal importation of unapproved or counterfeit medical devices, personal healthcare, and beauty products entering the United States via international mail facilities, express courier hubs, and land borders.

Body Armor was initiated to address and attack vulnerabilities in the entry process that might allow for the smuggling of counterfeit medical devices such as surgical equipment, and healthcare, hygiene, and beauty products. The number of importations of these items has risen dramatically as consumers are able to order products directly via online stores. Consumers purchase these products over the internet with the belief that the products advertised are legitimate, but in fact the products are often a counterfeit or unapproved version that may have been manufactured in unsanitary conditions and not subjected to any safeguards or quality controls. Criminals, posing as legitimate brand representatives and distributors advertise these products and sell to unwitting consumers across the nation, putting Americans at risk.



Body Armor combines the expertise of Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations. As part of Operation Body Armor, the IPR Center also partners with industry and other entities involved in the healthcare and beauty product community.