



FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



PRESS STATEMENT

FCC SEIZES COUNTERFEIT PVC PIPES

The Fair Competition Commission (FCC), acting pursuant to powers conferred upon it by the Merchandise Marks Act of 1963, as amended, had on Wednesday, 24th July, 2013, carried out a search and seizure operations targeting shops and warehouses suspected to stock counterfeited IPS PVC Pipes in Kariakoo Business District Area.

The FCC conducted the operation in collaboration with the Police Force and the Brand Owner's local official representative, M/S NABAKi AFRIKA.

The operation led to seizure of a total of 728 pieces of PVC Pipes branded IPS, worth about TShs 8,7 million. The same were seized in four out of about seven shops investigated after being suspected to stock counterfeited PVC pipes.

The shops found to stock the counterfeited IPS pipes with their quantities given include the following:

S/No.	Shop/Owner's Name	Quantities (PCS)
1.	Nicas August Ngallo, Hardware Building Materials P.O.Box 22110, DSM	97
2.	Sospeter Deus Mashauri P.O.Box 227, DSM	56
3.	Zamzam Ltd (BSP). P.O.Box 79896, DSM	504
4.	Shaban Omar Mnenke, P.O.Box 72639, DSM	71
	TOTAL	728

The search and seizure operation was prompted by IPS vide NABAKI AFRICA's letter dated 26th June, 2013 highlighting the infringement of its intellectual property right by some construction material outlet centres in Kariakoo area, which is contrary to **section 6 of the merchandise marks act of 1963 as amended.**

Similarly, IPS Argentina in collaboration with its local authorized distributor, M/S Nabaki Afrika, have undertaken an extensive market survey, took random samples of the counterfeit brands, as well as made laboratory tests, which indicate that the FAKE IPS Pipes are also SUBSTANDARD, and as such should not be used for the purpose of water supply.

All shop and business owners whose shops were found to stock counterfeited brands of IPS PVC pipes were served with seizure notices with their goods being seized and deposited in Government Warehouses. They were also ordered to take necessary steps in line with the requirements of the law.

IPS Trade Service Mark was registered in Tanzania on 4th September, 2009 as Trade Service Mark: 29936 in class 17.

The Search and Seizure operation on counterfeited IPS branded PVC pipes is part of the demonstration of the Government's commitment to rid the market of counterfeit goods, thereby helping the unsuspecting consumer from being shortchanged by unscrupulous businessmen.

In line with enforcement of the law, the commission urge brand owners to step-up brand awareness campaigns to their traditional outlet centres to ensure they desist from falling victims of the counterfeiters, thereby endangering lives of the Tanzanian consumers.

The swipe against counterfeit goods is an on-going exercise and as such, FCC would like to warn all traders to desist from Trading in counterfeit goods, for we are determined to continue searching them and bring them to the arm-length of the law.

Issued by the Communications and Public Relations Unit.

Thursday, 25th July, 2013.

Fair Competition Commission
2nd Floor, Western Wing, Ubungo Plaza, Morogoro Road,
P.O.BOX 7883, Dar es Salaam.

For further information or inquiries contact **Mr. Frank S. Mdimi, Senior Communications and Public Relations Officer** on TEL:+255222461565, 2461566, 2461568, 2461569; FAX:+255 222461567; Mobile: +255784762437 and +25573944083, E-MAIL: info@competition.or.tz,