

PRESS RELEASE: TIC Council Americas Reminds Consumers to be Wary during National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month

Washington DC, Tuesday 19 July 2022 – This week, TIC Council Americas kicks off a four week-long campaign in honour of National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month. From cosmetics and home electronics to children’s toys, the sale of counterfeit products is growing and poses serious safety risks to unsuspecting consumers.

In 2019, a [study](#) conducted by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) found that “counterfeits uncovered **225 reported health and safety risks**, led by chemical risk (32% of the total), followed by strangulation (17.3%), injuries from mechanical dangers (16.0%), electric shock (6.7%), damage to hearing (4.0%) and fire (4.0%)”

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has driven consumers online, resulting in an estimated **44% increase** in online marketplace sales. These products are often shipped directly to consumers, making them difficult for U.S. regulators to track and stop at customs ports. According to a [UL investigation](#) of counterfeit phone chargers, it was determined that nearly all (99 percent) of **400 samples tested failed** the dielectric strength test, a vital assessment of electrical safety.

[“Fake goods have real consequences, and consumers should have confidence they are getting what they paid for. Criminal networks are profiting from phony goods that expose Americans to potentially dangerous products, including illicit medicine, makeup, electronics, automotive parts, and toys, to name just a few.”](#) said Suzanne Clark, President & CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“TIC Council Americas has been an advocate for safe and reliable products and has embraced collaboration with industry and regulators to address the rise in unsafe counterfeit products reaching U.S. consumers, said Karin Athanas, Executive Director of TIC Council Americas, we look forward to bringing visibility to this issue and continuing to work with our partners to put safety first.”

TIC Council Americas aims to set the tone for a safer future by informing consumers and spreading awareness about counterfeit products and technologies.

Join us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) as we begin to explore the critical issue of anti-counterfeiting and the impact counterfeit products are having on our communities.

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Editor's Note About TIC Council:

TIC Council is the global trade federation representing the independent third-party Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry which brings together more than 100 member companies and organisations from around the world to speak with one voice. Its members provide services across a wide range of sectors: consumer products, medical devices, petroleum, mining and metals, food, and agriculture among others. Through provision of these services, TIC Council members assure that not only regulatory requirements are met, but also that reliability, economic value, and sustainability are enhanced. TIC Council's members are present in more than 160 countries and employ more than 300,000 people across the globe.

The Value of TIC Report:

To learn more about ourselves and our member's activities, the landmark report on the Value of the Testing, Inspection and Certification sector, developed jointly by the international law firm Steptoe and the London-based consultancy Europe Economics is now available to read. This report illustrates by using data and case studies to support the claim how the testing, inspection, and certification sector benefits a variety of stakeholders across a large number of sectors and industries around the world.

You can find the study [here](#), and we welcome you to share it with anyone who might be interested.