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IMMINENT THREAT

OBJECT / DEVICE



Type of object:	Counterfeit Medical Tourniquets
Date of discovery:	Ongoing
Place of discovery:	New Hampshire, United States of America
Country:	United States
Circumstances of discovery:	INTERPOL Washington, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) regarding the discovery of counterfeit medical tourniquets by emergency medical technicians, and police departments in the United States. Additionally, the British Broadcasting Service (BBC) reported similar Counterfeit medical tourniquets have been discovered within international supply chains
Description of object / device:	<p>A medical tourniquet is constructed with a strap that is placed above the wound on the injured appendage, affixed with a Velcro strap and is tightened into place with a small tension rod (windlass). The tightening of the tension rod is the mechanism which applies pressure to restrict blood flow to the affected area. In the identified counterfeit tourniquet models, the tension rod is constructed of plastic or a substandard composite that will allow the tension rod to bend or break, rendering the tourniquet ineffective and potentially deadly as it will not stop the loss of blood.</p> <p>Medical tourniquets are used in many emergency situations and commonly issued on ambulances, by first responders, law enforcement, and military lifesaving operations around the world. Counterfeits have been identified in several countries prior to being dispensed to first responders.</p> <p>In one report in particular, a counterfeit tourniquet issued to an emergency medical technician in the United States was being applied to a victim of a motor vehicle accident when the tension rod broke in two making it impossible to tighten the tourniquet.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The differences in appearance between real and counterfeit tourniquets may be subtle and difficult to identify. Some identified counterfeits have substandard tension rods that are weak, bendable, and may easily break under the required pressure to stop bleeding. Other counterfeits have been

identified to require more extensive winding and may not tighten adequately to achieve proper results.

This notice is intended to remind and warn Countries, Agencies, First Responders, Law Enforcement and other tourniquet users to only purchase items from known dependable supply chains. Additionally, should any item in deployment appear questionable, or come from unreliable supply chains, it is highly suggested to contact the manufacture and ensure the product is authentic.

Reported through Project Safety Net.

Points of contact:	INTERPOL NCB Washington INTERPOL Command and Coordination Centre
E-mail:	INTERPOL NCB Washington USNCB.INTERPOL.Washington@usdoj.gov INTERPOL Command and Coordination Centre os-ccc@interpol.int (Internet) os-ccc@gs.igcs.int (I-24/7)
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Recommended precautionary action:

It is strongly recommended that you circulate this Orange Notice to your law enforcement bodies including border inspection or anyone that may encounter such shipment types. This notification is to alert them about this object or device so that they may take whatever preventive and precautionary measures they deem necessary. All recipients are strongly encouraged to share data and provide any investigative information that could help establish links with similar events, objects or devices, as well as identify the perpetrators of counterfeit shipments.

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