

Counterfeit hotspots to be aware of in Cyprus

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Our "[Physical marketplace counterfeit hotspots](#)" series identifies the main marketplaces that should be on enforcement radars in different jurisdictions around the world.

Today, we head to the island nation of Cyprus.

The issue of fake goods is a prevalent one in Cyprus. A 2019 report from the EUIPO [revealed that](#) the Cypriot economy loses €180 million annually as a result of counterfeiting and piracy, at a cost of around 1,400 jobs a year. Going deeper, the report claimed that the clothing and footwear sectors suffer losses of around €90 million, or a staggering 17% of total production.

Below, Chrysostomides Advocates senior partner [Eleni Chrysostomides](#) and partner [Alexandros Georgiades](#) outline the key considerations and physical marketplaces that brand owners should be aware of when it comes to counterfeiting in Cyprus.

Anti-counterfeiting enforcement in Cyprus at a glance

In a nutshell, what should rights holders know about enforcing against counterfeit goods in Cyprus?

In Cyprus, two kinds of protection are offered against counterfeit goods. One is civil law protection, which may take the form of a lawsuit. The other is criminal law protection, which is enforced by the customs authorities in Cyprus in cooperation with the police. When it comes to the civil aspect, rights holders should seek advice from a local law firm in order to take the right steps.

There is also an administrative procedure for enforcing IP rights, according to the provisions of EU Customs Enforcement Regulation (608/2013). In this respect, rights holders can register their rights with Customs, providing details such as registered IP rights and the country of origin of counterfeits. Once registered, and for the duration of the registration, Customs will monitor and notify the rights holder of suspect consignments of counterfeit goods. They can, in turn, take action as per the procedure prescribed in the regulation. Usually, in such cases, counterfeiters agree to abandon the goods for destruction by Customs, and there is no need for legal proceedings.

Finally, customs authorities, along with the police, frequently conduct market operations targeting shops in Cyprus, with the purpose of finding, confiscating and destroying any counterfeit items they may find. The owners of the counterfeit items may be liable in criminal proceedings, which are initiated by the police.

Does landlord liability exist in Cyprus?

As far as criminal proceedings are concerned, landlord liability does not exist in Cyprus. Charges are always brought against the person found trading in the counterfeit items, not the owner of the premises. Landlord liability does not exist for civil proceedings, either.

Counterfeit hotspots you should know in Cyprus

There are a number of counterfeit threat areas in Cyprus, especially around coastal and tourist-heavy areas.

Paphos

Location	A range of souvenir shops in the city of Paphos, including on Apostolou Pavlou Avenue, Poseidonos Avenue and Tombs of the Kings Road (map link)
Counterfeit risk factor	Very high
Counterfeit products reportedly sold there	Handbags, sunglasses, perfumes, accessories and other products from a variety of brands, such as Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Labubu, Louis Vuitton, Nike, Pokémon, Polo Ralph Lauren and YSL
Are the marketplace owners cooperative in tackling counterfeits?	Marketplace owners in Cyprus may cooperate with the authorities or rights holders on a case-by-case basis, primarily to minimise their exposure to potential legal or administrative sanctions.

Enforcement challenges	As the stores that are selling counterfeit products are usually souvenir shops, and taking into consideration the size of Cyprus and its population, rights holders should have in mind that once a check has been conducted in a specific shop, its owner may tip off the owners of different shops so that they may conceal their counterfeit products.
Recommendations for brand owners	With any check or raid, we would advise taking advice from a law office before any action.

Limassol

Location	Streets in the southern city of Limassol with souvenir shops. The most problematic roads include Spyrou Araouzou Street, Georgiou A Street and Amathountos Street (map link)
Counterfeit risk factor	Very high
Counterfeit products reportedly sold there	As with most counterfeit issues in Cyprus, it is mostly handbags, sunglasses, perfumes and accessories from brands including Chloe, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Louis Vuitton and Polo Ralph Lauren.
Are the marketplace owners cooperative in tackling counterfeits?	Like across the island, marketplace owners in Cyprus may cooperate with the authorities or rights holders on a case-by-case basis, primarily to minimise their exposure to potential legal or administrative sanctions.
Enforcement challenges	The stores that are selling counterfeit products are normally souvenir shops. Again, one owner may tip off the owners of different souvenir shops.
Recommendations for brand owners	With any check or raid, we would advise taking advice from a law office before any action.

Agia Napa

Location	The souvenir shops around the resort town of Agia Napa, including on Makariou Avenue, Kryou Nerou Street and Nisi Avenue (map link)
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Counterfeit risk factor	Very high
Counterfeit products reportedly sold there	Mostly fashion-related items, as well as perfumes and accessories. Brands affected include adidas, Fendi, Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Louis Vuitton and Nike.
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Recommendations for brand owners	With any check or raid, we would advise taking advice from a law office before any action.

Larnaca

Location	Primarily the Finikoudes beach area of the port city Larnaca (map link)
Counterfeit risk factor	Very high
Counterfeit products reportedly sold there	Handbags, sunglasses, perfumes, accessories and other products from a variety of brands, such as Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Labubu, Louis Vuitton, Nike, Pokémon, Polo Ralph Lauren and YSL
Are the marketplace owners cooperative in tackling counterfeits?	Again, marketplace owners in Cyprus may cooperate with the authorities or rights holders on a case-by-case basis, primarily to minimise their exposure to potential legal or administrative sanctions.
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Nicosia

Location	Fakes can be found in Nicosia, the largest city and capital of Cyprus. Most can be found in the old part of Nicosia, especially within the medieval wall on roads including Ippokratous Street, Solonos Street and any other areas with souvenir shops (map link)
Counterfeit risk factor	Average
Counterfeit products reportedly sold there	Handbags, sunglasses, perfumes, accessories and other products from a variety of brands, such as Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Labubu, Louis Vuitton, Nike, Pokémon, Polo Ralph Lauren and YSL
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The insights in this article are based on a local law firm's professional experience. Therefore, the information provided should be viewed as guidance for fellow professionals and not general information on the listed areas.

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