

Lithuania - Lithuanian Customs Department

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The officials of the Customs Criminal Service (hereinafter referred to as CCS) have detained almost 14,000,000 packs of cigarettes this year (January-June, 2004). The black market value of it is about 1,000,000 Litas (about 290,000 euros).

23 March 2004

The biggest shipment of smuggled cigarettes this year detained at Kybartai customs road post

An attempt was being made to carry in a shipment of almost one thousand boxes of smuggled cigarettes from Russia to Lithuania on a cargo vehicle that was detained at Kybartai customs road post in the night of March 17th.

A cargo vehicle driven by a Russian citizen drove into the territory of Lithuania from Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation at about 3 o'clock a.m. The driver declared to the customs officers at Kybartai customs road post he was carrying waste paper – mixed scrap paper by transit through the territory of Lithuania to the Russia's capital city Moscow.

Nevertheless, the officers of Customs Criminal Service (CCS) decided to carry out a detailed examination of the cargo. After reloading the scrap paper from the rear end of the vehicle the officers found the vehicle stuffed with boxes of Russian smuggled cigarettes "Saint George", "Horizon".

The total amount of smuggled cigarettes made 8 million 940 thousand units (447 000 packs) whose value in the black market should reach approximately 715 thousand Litas.

The driver was not able to explain how the shipment of smuggled cigarettes got into his vehicle. The driver was detained for 48 hours. The vehicle and the cigarettes were also detained and a pre-trial investigation thereof has been started at the Kaunas unit of CCS.

On March 3rd the officers of CCS and the State Border Guard service detained two cargo vehicles carrying 250 boxes of smuggled Russian cigarettes (2 million 500 thousand units) from Russia to Lithuania at Kybartai road post. The black market value of this shipment may reach about 200 thousand Litas.

On March 12th one more attempt was made to carry 1 million 500 thousand units of smuggled Russian cigarettes to Lithuania loaded on a cargo vehicle that was stopped by the officers of CCS at Sudargas customs road post.

17 March 2004

1.5 million pieces of smuggled cigarettes detained in the cargo vehicle

On March 12 officers of Customs Criminal Service (CCS) at Sudargo road post detained a huge shipment of smuggled Russian cigarettes, carried to Lithuania from Russian Federation Kaliningrad district.

Cargo vehicle VOLVO, driven by a Russian citizen declared that the vehicle contains no cargo, however the officers of CCS decided to make a detailed examination of the vehicle. It turned out that the vehicle's semitrailer's roof and the floorboard hid a cache full of smuggled cigarettes.

The total amount of smuggled cigarettes “Dukat”, “Saint George”, “Bond”, “L&M” and “Bairon”—all with Russian wrappers made 75 870 packages. The value of them in black market may reach more than 90 thousand litas.

Cargo vehicle and smuggled cigarettes were detained. Pre-trial investigation has been started at the Kaunas unit of the CCS.

The cargo vehicle with smuggled cigarettes, detained on March 12 is the third detained by Customs Criminal Service officers during the last two weeks. On March 3 CCS and State Border Guard Service’s officers at Kybartu road post detained two cargo vehicles, carrying 2.5 million pieces of smuggled cigarettes from Russia to Lithuania.

22 December 2003

9 million units of smuggled cigarettes instead of knitting-machines

On December 13th officers of Customs Criminal Service (CCS) in co-operation with foreign customs liaison officers during an international operation detected a huge shipment of smuggled cigarettes instead of the knitting-machines as it had been declared in the documents submitted for customs clearance at the Klaipėda Malkų bay seaport post terminal unit. The total amount of the illegally carried cigarettes was 917 boxes whose market value, according to preliminary estimations, may exceed 900 thousand Litass.

The above cargo was brought to Lithuania on a container vessel, by transit via the port of Hamburg on December 12th. Freight forwarders, representatives of the company registered in Klaipėda, declared that the sea container carried 958 packages of knitting-machines. However, during customs examination of the above container on December 13th the CCS officers found 917 boxes of cigarettes “Super Kings” and “Regal” in it. The smuggled cargo was masked with 41 box containing white synthetic yarn. Cigarettes had no wrappers and their origin is still being ascertained. According to the preliminary data the value of these contraband cigarettes in the Lithuanian internal market may reach as much as 917 thousand Litass.

The shipment of illegal cigarettes was detained and a pre-trial investigation has been started at the Klaipėda unit of the CCS.

This has been the largest shipment of smuggled cigarettes detained by Lithuanian customs officers this year. The total amount of illegally brought cigarettes detained by CCS in 2003 is 37 million units (1 million 858 thousand packs) whose market value reaches about 3 million Litass.

14 November 2003

Cigarette smuggling of approx. 400 thousand Litass value detained

On November 7th officers of the Customs Criminal Service (CCS) detained a cargo vehicle at Medininkai road post of the Vilnius territorial customs office carrying almost 8 million pieces of Russian cigarettes. An attempt was being made to smuggle the cigarettes from Belarus into the territory of Lithuania.

The cargo vehicle “Renault” driven by a Lithuanian citizen was stopped while leaving the Medininkai road post at around 11.00 p.m. The declaration submitted by the driver stated the cargo contained calcium soda, however, in the course of a detailed examination of the cargo it turned out that in fact the vehicle was packed with contraband cigarettes “Saint George”, and

only the rear end of the vehicle was camouflaged with sacks of calcium soda. The total amount of the Russian smuggled cigarettes made 770 boxes the market value of which may reach 400 thousand Litas.