

Concrete blocks and counterfeit
cigarettes

Illicit tobacco

- Encompasses:
 - ‘Duty free’ smuggled mostly from Eastern Europe
 - Counterfeit mostly from China and North Korea

Illicit Cigarettes

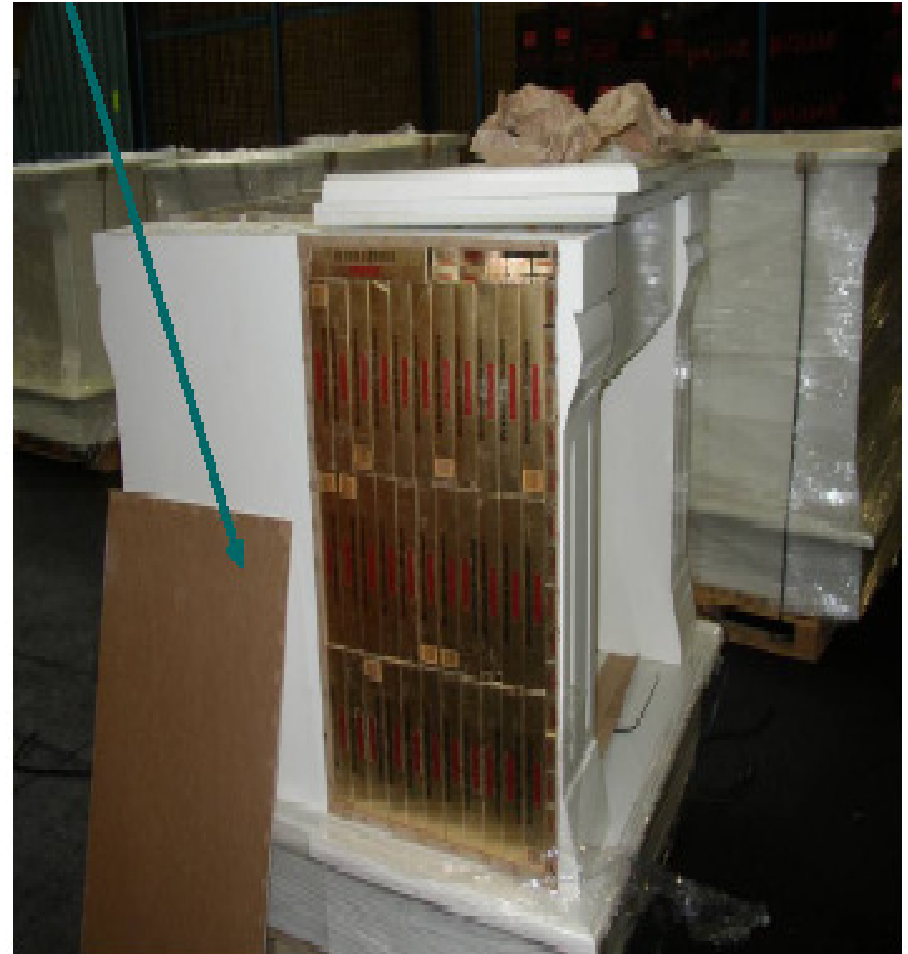
- 18% of all cigarettes and 50% of HRT smoked in the UK is illicit
- 51% of all cigarettes seized by Customs in 2006/7 were counterfeit
- During a 4 week operation at **one** postal depot Customs seized 16, 301, 334 cigarettes and 2283 kg HRT. Representing **211 million cigs & 29 tonnes of HRT** annually.

(HMRC Annual Report 2007)

Logs hollowed out and filled with cigarettes



Marble fireplaces packed with counterfeit cigs



Concrete blocks containing 1 million cigarettes



FIVE GADRS



31/07/2005



31/07/2005



So what?

- Illicit tobacco goes to the most vulnerable – children, teenagers and poor people.
- Cost of tobacco is a major factor in the decision to stop, start or relapse.
- UK has the highest tax rate in EU but instead of quitting people are purchasing illicit tobacco.
- Annual cost to treasury = approx £3 billion
- Content of counterfeit cigs & health consequences??

**CIGARETTES YOU
BUY ON THE STREET
MAY CONTAIN
ANIMAL DROPPINGS**

