

Public Global Roche Statement on Counterfeiting

Counterfeiting of pharmaceutical and diagnostic products constitutes a significant public health issue worldwide. It is an increasingly common crime that, in addition to infringing intellectual property rights:

- endangers the lives and the well-being of patients;
- undermines confidence in healthcare systems and health professionals;
- creates a financial burden on patients and governments because of the money wasted on counterfeits and related enforcement measures;
- damages public confidence in authentic pharmaceutical and diagnostic products and
- their manufacturers and distributors, adversely affecting these legitimate businesses.

National authorities and agencies, such as health authorities, customs, police, intergovernment agencies, and international organizations (e.g. WHO), take the primary responsibility for the prevention and control of counterfeiting. Roche fully supports governmental efforts and is committed to cooperate with the authorities whenever a Roche product is concerned. However, Roche has no official power to intervene directly and will not assume liability for damage claims related to counterfeit products. Roche's policy ensures an action plan for rapid information, possible detection, coordination, analysis of suspect products, reporting and timely interaction with authorities.

To date, Roche's exposure has been low; only a few cases of counterfeiting involving Roche products have been discovered. Based on its corporate principles and recognizing the potential impact of this public health issue, Roche has further developed its policy for preventing counterfeiting and responding to counterfeit products within its sphere of influence. As appropriate, Roche follows relevant national and international standards, guidelines and regulations aimed at combating counterfeit active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), medicines and diagnostics.

Counterfeit medicines are mostly offered for sale by unlicensed sources. The implications for public health and safety mean that Roche takes this issue extremely seriously. Roche discourages the buying of prescription medicine via non-authorized sources, such as not authorized Internet sites.

Roche has implemented technical anti-counterfeiting measures for some products. Current or future anti-counterfeiting measures cannot protect against all counterfeit medicines; sophisticated counterfeiters can detect and replicate anti-counterfeiting measures. On a case by case basis, incorporating requirements from authorities, Roche will pursue and coordinate anti-counterfeiting measures relating to the design, including packaging and labelling, of products that are subject to counterfeiting or that may have a high probability to become subject to counterfeiting. Despite these measures, consumers may not recognize a counterfeit of legitimate product, even with sophisticated anti-counterfeit measures.

This statement was approved by the Corporate Sustainability Committee in May 2006.