

## Roche Statement on Counterfeiting

Counterfeit pharmaceutical and diagnostic products are illegal and pose a significant global public health problem. 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;
- damages public confidence in authentic pharmaceutical and diagnostic products and their manufacturers and distributors;
- is a threat to the reputation of the legitimate healthcare business;
- creates a financial burden on governments because of the money wasted on counterfeits and related enforcement measures.

National authorities and agencies, such as health authorities, customs, police, intergovernmental 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. Roche's primary task is to research and develop medicines and diagnostic tools, however, the company 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 in order to ensure the company's contribution to the fight against counterfeiting and to respond to counterfeit products within its sphere of influence such as continuously monitor and improve product security using technology to quickly identify counterfeits. As appropriate, Roche follows relevant national and international standards, guidelines and regulations aimed at combating counterfeit active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), medicines and diagnostics. Further, Roche participates in national and international industry and governmental efforts to develop stronger laws and improve enforcement, educate the public and train local officials.

Counterfeit medicines are mostly offered for sale by unlicensed sources. As the implications for public health and safety are so high Roche takes this issue extremely seriously. Roche's medicines are only available on prescription and the company recommends buying prescription only medicines exclusively from trusted sources such as doctors or authorized pharmacies.

Roche has implemented technical anti-counterfeiting measures for some products, however, such measures cannot prevent counterfeits: sophisticated counterfeiters can detect and replicate them. Roche will not make these measures public, as they would immediately lose their protective impact. Roche will incorporate requirements from authorities. The company will also 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 on April 29, 2009 and entered into force the same day.*