The Problem?

7 - 10% of pesticides sold in Europe are illegal
What are illegal pesticides? (1)

• Overtly illegal products:
  Look nothing like the genuine, authorised products.
Example of illegal product

Illegal product with limited or no label

Usually re-packed from a bulk consignment
What are illegal pesticides? (2)

- Fake or Counterfeit products:
  Packaging and labelling look identical to legitimate products (and consequently, infringe the right holder's trademark and/or patent).
Example of fake product

DuPont Original
® : 2 mm Diameter

Italian Counterfeit
® : 1 mm Diameter
What are illegal pesticides? (3)

- Illegal parallels:

  Presented as parallel imports but contain non-identical product from a different source.
Chikita (parallel permit withdrawn 8/3/13) & Chikara (UK reference product)
Variability of Chikita formulation
Chikita packaging
On the left tub with no seal/On the right, better pot but with foil seal already broken when opened by customer
Illegal parallel products are the greatest threat to UK farmers

• There is low risk with parallel products that have not been repacked

• Much higher risk with parallel products that have been repacked
Illegal parallel products are the greatest threat to UK farmers

Repacking gives opportunity to fill new containers with illegal material (often from China) which is not identical to the UK reference product (Unknown impurities, contaminants, harmful solvents)
What is a legal parallel import?

- A plant protection product that is authorised in one MS (MS of origin) can be sold in another MS under a parallel trade permit if it is identical to a product already authorised in that country (reference product).

- Plant protection products are “products in the form in which they are supplied to the end user”.

(paraphrased from Regulation 1107/2009)
How is “identical” defined?

• Manufactured by the same company (same source)
• Identical in specification and content of active, safeners and synergists, and in type of formulation.
• Same or equivalent co-formulants and packaging.

(paraphrased from Regulation 1107/2009)
Illegal products are not tested to prove their safety

- Human Health
- Environment
- Crop
- Farm Business
- Public confidence
What are we doing about it?

• CPA, NFU and AIC working together to develop messages and raise awareness since 2010
• Campaign launched 17 January 2014 with support of Voluntary Initiative and Red Tractor Assurance
• Objective – to raise awareness of pesticide suppliers, advisors, buyers, users and wider food chain
• Leaflets, video, posters, pop-ups and briefings
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BUYING?

WATCH OUT!

WHEN YOU BUY PESTICIDES...

GUARD AGAINST ILLEGAL PESTICIDES THAT COULD THREATEN THE HEALTH OF SPRAYER OPERATORS, DEPRIVE YOU OF YOUR SINGLE FARM PAYMENT AND FARM ASSURED STATUS, RESULT IN CROP FAILURE OR REJECTION AND EVEN LEAD TO PROSECUTION.

• Buy only known and reputable products from known and reputable suppliers.
• Check that packaging is professional, tamper-proof and securely sealed and it has a full label written in English.
• Check the product on the invoice and delivery note matches the product ordered and delivered.
• If you are familiar with the product, check that it looks as expected.
• Report suspicious products and suppliers to the Defra helpline - 08459 33 55 77 (calls charged at local rate).

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Key Messages (1)

1. Only buy reputable products from reputable suppliers
2. Check sales staff are BASIS registered
3. Question unrealistic prices
4. Check that product on invoice matches product ordered & delivered
Key Messages (2)

5. Check packaging: professional, sealed, fully labelled
6. Check product looks “as expected”
7. Parallel imports – ask for details of origin
Key Messages (3)

8. Check approval details on CRD website
9. If in doubt, check with manufacturer, agronomist or supplier
10. Report suspicious products and suppliers to Defra 08459 33 55 77
What can you do?

• Help spread the message through articles
• Cascade the campaign materials
• Show the video
• Borrow the banners to use at shows

HELP STAMP OUT THE TRADE IN ILLEGAL PESTICIDES
Illegal pesticides: An appeal for intelligence

Illegal pesticides, including counterfeits, are being found in increasing amounts across the UK and Europe.

Thames Valley Police has an interest in illegal pesticides not just because of the risks they pose to our rural communities but the links to organised crime gangs. There is growing evidence that the illicit activities of such gangs finance other serious crimes such as human trafficking and international terrorism.

Please read the leaflet titled ‘Do you know what you are buying?’ The leaflet contains advice and useful tips to help you protect your business against illegal pesticides.

If you notice anything suspicious about pesticides you have either been offered or purchased, please call the 24 hour non-emergency number 101 and mention ‘Operation Silo’.

Things to look out for:

- Does the product look or smell unusual?
- Have you been offered a product which has been described as the same as another but at a discounted rate?
- Have you been sold a product because your first choice was ‘out of stock’?
- Do you have any feelings that a product you have bought isn’t quite right?
- Is the packaging unusual or not what you would expect?

Please act on any suspicions you may have and call Thames Valley Police as soon as possible. If you do not want to speak to police, you can call the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
• www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/watchout

• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAQBCAGEM20
Watch Out! Campaign

WHEN YOU BUY PESTICIDES
THANK YOU