

Results in controls of consumer goods by Customs in 2017

In 2017, Customs inspected 1 550 consignments under its jurisdiction. Most of the consignments (82 %) were brought to Finland directly from outside the EU. Of the samples of internal market products about half was of non-EU origin, but had been brought to Finland through another EU Member State. Almost 90 % of the controlled products were manufactured outside the territory of the EU.

Table 1. Consumer goods examined by Customs in 2017

Samples (pcs)	Product group description	OK	REMARK	REJECTED
16	Candle products and other burnable products	5	7	4
62	Child care supplies	35	7	20
41	Plastic supplies (not FCM)	37	1	3
86	Other consumer goods	62	18	6
147	Cosmetics	80	30	37
121	Jewellery and other related objects	104	10	7
468	Textiles, footwear and accessories	413	31	24
609	Toys	426	62	121
1 550	Quantities:	1162	166	222

Of the consignments examined in consumer goods controls, altogether 222, i.e. 14 % did not comply with regulations. More than 90 % of these consignments originated in non-EU countries. Minor defects were present in 166 consignments (11 %). Non-compliance resulted in consignments being rejected. In cases of minor errors, Customs remarked on the products.

Most consumer items were rejected based on incorrect or insufficient labels. The products mainly comprised toys, cosmetics and child care supplies. Label controls focused on so-called basic label information (for example, information concerning the identification and traceability, such as article numbers) as well as any possible warning labels required for the product. Mechanical defects relating to product structure and consistency were present in 52 products, almost all of which were toys such as soft toy animals, action figures and projectile toys. As for harmful materials such as phthalate softeners and azo dyes, altogether 33 consignments of consumer goods did not comply with regulations.

When observed according to product group, most products that did not comply with criteria comprised child care supplies. Products in serious breach of regulations comprised up to 32 % of the examined goods. Child care supplies involved defects in labelling and

mechanics, as well as volatile harmful substances (pacifiers and baby feeding supplies). Minor errors were detected in 11 % of child care supplies.

A considerable quantity of non-compliant products were found also among cosmetics. Of the examined cosmetics, 25 % did not comply with regulations, and the examinations of 20 % of the products resulted in remarks. In most cases, defects in cosmetics involve package labels and product ingredients which the product either must not contain or which are allowed in the product under certain conditions.

Customs reported on the most serious cases of non-compliance to the Commission via the RAPEX system. This practice enables also other EU Member States to obtain information on products possibly imported to other locations in the Union. Last year, Customs entered reports on 25 non-compliant products in the RAPEX system, mainly toys rejected due to mechanical faults, inauthentic jewellery too rich in heavy metals, and leather products with high levels of hexavalent chromium.