



CONTAINER EXAMINATION FACILITY DETECTIONS

RECENT DETECTIONS AT THE MELBOURNE CEF

Since June 2010, the Melbourne Container Examination Facility has been responsible for several significant drug seizures including:

- 240 kg of cocaine concealed inside stone pavers imported from Mexico
- 50 kg of cocaine suspended in hydraulic oil
- 1.7 kg of heroin concealed within bed frames
- 17 tonnes of undeclared tobacco concealed in a container from Indonesia.

RECENT DETECTIONS AT THE SYDNEY CEF

The Sydney Container Examination Facility has also had a number of significant drug and tobacco detections in the last 12 months including:

- 53 kg of cocaine concealed in bags in a shipping container
- 168 kg of heroin concealed inside wooden doors
- 160 kg of opium concealed in jars
- 25 kg of heroin concealed within large steel bolts
- a number of significant seizures of tobacco concealed in sea cargo containers including nine seizures each in excess of 15 tonnes.

The seizures have led to the arrest and prosecution of a number of offenders for importing and/or distributing these drugs.

25KG OF HEROIN SEIZED DESPITE CLEVER CONCEALMENT

In March 2011 Customs and Border Protection officers at the Sydney Container Examination Facility examined a shipping container declared as kitchen and hardware items from Pakistan.

Customs and Border Protection officers found 26 cardboard boxes containing a large number of bolts. Upon further inspection, officers found a white substance concealed within the bolts.

Testing of the substance indicated the presence of heroin.

In total, 25 kilograms of heroin was detected with a potential street value of \$4.5 million.



One of the bolts that was found to contain heroin

WORLD'S LARGEST ECSTASY SEIZURE IN MELBOURNE

In June 2007, Customs and Border Protection made the world's largest single detection of ecstasy with the discovery of 4.4 tonnes of ecstasy concealed in tins of tomatoes.

Acting on intelligence received, Customs and Border Protection targeted a container reportedly containing tinned tomatoes at the Melbourne Container Examination Facility. When x-rayed the container revealed inconsistencies and was subsequently opened for inspection.

Customs and Border Protection officers then unpacked the pallets of tins, and laboriously checked each for concealments. Approximately half of the tins of tomatoes were found to contain ecstasy tablets.

Customs and Border Protection officers and AFP agents examined the container and found more than 3000 tins, each weighing about 1.5 kilograms, containing MDMA tablets with an approximate street value of \$440 million.

This detection led to an intense 12-month investigation by law enforcement agencies and led to the arrest of 16 people across Australia.



An officer searches the container containing MDMA (ecstasy)



Can containing MDMA - ecstasy