



# DETECTIONS IN CONTAINER CARGO

Customs is a world leader in the use of technology to protect Australia's borders.

State-of-the-art technology allows Customs to accurately and rapidly examine a larger percentage of cargo than would otherwise be possible, and to process the large majority of cargo quickly.

All sea cargo arriving in Australia is risk assessed by Customs and each year about 100 000 containers are inspected.

Since the introduction of the Container Examination Facilities (CEF) in 2002, drugs with a street value of well over A\$1 billion have been seized and over A\$70 million in revenue evasion prevented.

The facilities have also resulted in seizures of precursor chemicals, which can be manufactured in clandestine laboratories into amphetamine.

## RESULTS

The examination facilities have resulted in the detection of:

- more than three tonnes of ecstasy
- 2800 litres of methylamine (precursor chemical)
- 1150kg ephedrine
- 694kg cannabis
- 400 litres of safrole (precursor chemical)
- 133kg of other precursor chemicals
- 395kg of crystal methamphetamine
- 162kg heroin
- more than 122 million cigarette sticks (more than A\$27 million in duty evasion)
- more than 170 tonnes of tobacco (more than A\$47 million in duty evasion); and
- almost 30 000 litres of alcohol.

## THE BIG DETECTIONS

### ECSTASY

**June 2006**

**Location:** Melbourne CEF

**Seized item:** Ecstasy

**Quantity:** 1.2 million tablets, 350kg, street value of A\$40 million

**Details:** Concealed in drums of ink.

**April 2005**

**Location:** Melbourne CEF

**Seized item:** Ecstasy

**Quantity:** More than one tonne of ecstasy tablets, worth more than A\$250 million

**Details:** Concealed in a shipment of ceramic tiles. This is Australia's largest, and one of the world's biggest ever, detections of the drug.

**October 2004**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Ecstasy

**Quantity:** 820kg of tablets and powder, worth more than A\$200 million

**Details:** Hidden in a bakery oven from Poland.

**June 2004**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Ecstasy

**Quantity:** 342kg powder

**Details:** Packaged in Chinese won ton pastry sheets. The powder could have been used to make up to 1.4 million ecstasy tablets.

### CANNABIS

**June 2004**

**Location:** Fremantle

**Seized item:** Cannabis

**Quantity:** 644kg

**Details:** Found beneath the flooring of a shipping container.

## COCAINE

**September 2006**

**Location:** Brisbane CEF

**Seized item:** Cocaine and ecstasy

**Quantity:** 135kg of cocaine and 120 000 ecstasy tablets worth total of A\$38.5 million

**Details:** Hidden in computers from Canada.

## HEROIN

**June 2003**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Heroin

**Quantity:** 100kg

**Details:** Concealed in a shipment of hessian bags containing sodium carbonate.

## METHAMPHETAMINE (ICE)

**December 2005**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Methamphetamine (ice)

**Quantity:** 46kg, estimated street value of A\$17.5 million

**Details:** Hidden in a speedboat imported from Canada.

## PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

**June 2006**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Pseudoephedrine

**Quantity:** Approximately two million cold and flu tablets

**Details:** The pseudoephedrine in the cold and flu tablets had the potential to produce methamphetamine with a street value of A\$22 million.

**April 2005**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Ephedrine

**Quantity:** 400kg

**Details:** Concealed within ceramic statues. The ephedrine could have been manufactured into more than one million methamphetamine tablets with a street value of up to A\$72 million.

## WEAPONS

**December 2005**

**Location:** Fremantle CEF

**Seized item:** Slingshots

**Quantity:** 1000 items

**Details:** Found in a sea cargo container from China.

## TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES

**January 2006**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Unmanufactured tobacco

**Quantity:** More than six tonnes

**Details:** Declared as moisturising shower foam, body bath and shampoo. The duty payable on this quantity of tobacco is approximately A\$1.8 million.

**January 2006**

**Location:** Melbourne CEF

**Seized item:** Unmanufactured tobacco

**Quantity:** 6.4 tonnes

**Details:** Found concealed within a shipment of toilet paper rolls. Had the tobacco been processed, the duty payable would have been approximately A\$1.8 million.

**August 2005**

**Location:** Sydney CEF

**Seized item:** Tobacco

**Quantity:** 6.5 tonnes

**Details:** The duty payable was approximately A\$1.9 million.

## COUNTERFEIT GOODS

**August 2006**

**Location:** Melbourne

**Seized item:** Counterfeit designer branded clothing

**Quantity:** 5200 articles

**Details:** The shipment included handbags, wallets, watches and perfumes.

**April 2006**

**Location:** Melbourne

**Seized item:** Counterfeit perfume

**Quantity:** 30 000 bottles

**Details:** Two shipping containers from China. If the perfume was genuine, it would be worth up to A\$2 million.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on any Customs matters, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).