



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Wisconsin DOR Again Seizes Contraband Cigarettes From Unauthorized, Out-of-State Tobacco Company

Unauthorized distributor continues to bring contraband cigarettes into Wisconsin

This week, agents from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) again seized contraband cigarettes from HCI Distribution of Nebraska, an unauthorized distributor. In response to HCI Distribution's continued efforts to evade the law, DOR agents also seized the vehicle carrying the contraband cigarettes, as allowed under state law.

Agents seized over 30,000 packs of contraband cigarettes, which have an estimated value of approximately \$180,000. Last month, DOR seized 70,000 packs of contraband cigarettes from HCI Distribution.

Wisconsin law requires that all cigarettes that come into Wisconsin for sale or distribution are subject to Wisconsin excise tax and must have stamps showing the tax has been paid before sale. HCI is not registered with the Department of Revenue to distribute cigarettes and continues to transport cigarettes without the required cigarette tax stamps. The cigarette tax in Wisconsin is \$2.52 per pack.

The Department of Revenue works to ensure that all retailers, distributors and manufacturers comply with the law and are operating fairly. Unstamped cigarettes like the ones seized by DOR create an uneven playing field for the retailers, distributors and manufacturers who comply with state and federal laws.

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