



# NRC NEWS

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## NRC JOINS WITH NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS COORDINATION CENTER TO PROTECT NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today became the 21<sup>st</sup> partner agency to the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, a part of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agreement outlines the collaborative investigative efforts and cooperation protocols the two agencies will share related to counterfeit, fraudulent and suspect parts and equipment used in nuclear power plants and devices using nuclear materials.

"This important interagency partnership will play a critical role in the NRC's formal, proactive efforts to address the potential threat that counterfeit parts pose to the global supply chain, which will reduce vulnerabilities as they relate to NRC-regulated activities," said Cheryl McCrary, Director of the NRC's Office of Investigations. "This partnership initiative will enhance the fight against wrongdoing in support of the NRC's safety and security mission."

Founded in 2000, the center uses the expertise of its member agencies to share information, develop initiatives, coordinate enforcement actions, and conduct investigations to fight criminal counterfeiting and piracy.

"I'm excited that the NRC is joining the IPR Center, and will be partnering with us to leverage our combined resources, skills and authorities to better combat intellectual property theft and identify and dismantle the criminal organizations that seek to profit from the manufacturing, importation and sale of counterfeit items," said IPR Center Director Lev Kubiak. "The Center will continue to take advantage of the strengths of all of our law enforcement partners and work closely with them in the fight against intellectual property theft."

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