

Customs intercept importation of stun guns



Earlier this week the New Zealand Customs Service intercepted three packages, each containing 10 stun guns sent from Thailand to an address in east Auckland.

A 25 year old New Zealand male has been charged with the importation, possession, and sale of the guns.

A further eight stun guns, which were imported earlier, were located at this address after a search warrant was executed by Customs with the New Zealand Police providing assistance. Another two stun guns which had been sold by the offender, from the earlier shipment, were later retrieved by Customs.

Customs Manager Investigations, Shane Panettiere says the successful interception has stopped these stun guns from being sold onto our streets, and used to cause harm.

“Seeing these dangerous weapons off our streets is rewarding for both Customs and the officers involved. Our officers have prevented these weapons from falling into the wrong hands and being used for illegal purposes,” says Mr Panettiere.

The male had recently travelled to Thailand for a holiday and had arranged for the guns to be sent back to him disguised and mislabelled as torches. His intentions were to sell the guns. He admitted to previously importing the stun guns which were located at his house.

The offender has been remanded without plea at Manukau District Court following his arrest by Customs officers late last week.

“This intercept reflects the dedication and excellent work of our Customs officers and staff, and the valuable assistance of the Police,” says Mr Panettiere.

Stun guns are prohibited items in New Zealand and importing them carries a maximum penalty of 6 months’ imprisonment.

Over the past two years Customs has seized more than 120 stun guns imported from a variety of countries.