

2016 USTR OUT-OF-CYCLE REVIEW OF NOTORIOUS MARKETS REPORT

December 2016



The [Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#) (USTR) is responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade, commodity, and direct investment policy, and overseeing negotiations with other countries.

Washington, D.C. – On December 21, 2016, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released the [2016 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets](#). The Notorious Markets List (“List”) highlights prominent online and physical marketplaces that reportedly engage in and facilitate substantial copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting. A goal of the List is to motivate appropriate action by owners and operators in the private sector, as well as governments, to reduce piracy and counterfeiting.

USTR developed the List under the auspices of the annual Special 301 process. USTR solicited comments regarding potential markets to highlight in this year’s List – based upon publically available information – through a Request for Public Comments published in the Federal Register on August 25, 2016. ASOP Global [provided comments](#) for this Report. USTR highlights these markets not only because they exemplify global counterfeiting and piracy concerns, but also because the scale of infringing activity in such markets can cause significant economic harm.

Some of the identified markets reportedly host a combination of legitimate and unauthorized activities. Others reportedly exist solely to engage in or facilitate unauthorized activity. USTR has identified notorious markets in the Special 301 Report since 2006. In 2010, USTR announced that it would begin publishing the List separately from the annual Special 301 Report, pursuant to an Out-of-Cycle Review (OCR). USTR first separately published the List in February 2011. The present List is the result of the 2016 OCR of Notorious Markets.

Included in the List is Nanjing Imperiosus Technology Co., which also operates as *DomainersChoice.com*, due to the disproportionate amount of services offered to illegal online drug sellers. As noted in ASOP Global’s comments to USTR, Nanjing Imperiosus is one of the more substantial registrars that host illegal online pharmacy websites, estimated over 2,300 sites. Furthermore, it is noted that approximately half of all illegal online pharmacy websites can be found within the seven registrars included in ASOP Global’s comments. ASOP Global is pleased to see Nanjing Imperiosus included in the 2016 List, shedding light on the growing issue of illegal online drug sellers.

ASOP Global looks forward to continued collaboration with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in combatting the issue of counterfeit medications online and to support these efforts during the next Special 301 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets.