

Swiss seize 1mn fake Pfizer pills en route from China

October 21, 2013 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: Customs authorities at Switzerland's Zurich airport have confiscated one million fake pills resembling Pfizer's anti-anxiety medicine Xanax. This is the largest seizure of counterfeit medicines at the airport.

The four crates of pills were intercepted while they were being transported from China to Egypt. Tests conducted in Swiss laboratories revealed that the pills contained no active ingredients.

Experts at the Swissmedic health authority highlighted that it was impossible to tell if the drugs were fake at first glance.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that more than 10 percent of all medicines may be fake or substandard in the developing world.