

X-RAY ANALYSIS IN THE U.S. CUSTOMS LABORATORIES

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The United States Customs Service was established in 1789 by the first U.S. Congress to provide revenue for the new nation. From that time, the income it collected from the duties assessed on imported goods funded most federal government activities for nearly 125 years. Duty rates vary from commodity to commodity and, sometimes, even from country to country. Therefore, accurate identification of imported goods is very important. For many years, the U.S. Customs Laboratories have provided the technical advice required by Customs officers involved in duty assessment and other activities. In this effort, X-ray analytical techniques are used by the Customs laboratories for sample identification in areas such as health and safety, controlled substances, as well as duty assessment. A variety of examples will be presented.