

In Brief: Trade panel launches iPod patent probe

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The U.S. International Trade Commission has launched an investigation into alleged patent infringement by the makers of the popular iPod.

The investigation announced this week is based on a complaint made by California's Creative Technology that alleges Apple partook of its patent on user-interface technology used in Creative's ZEN and NOMAD digital players.

Creative alleges Apple violated U.S tariff law by importing products from Asia that infringe on its patent -- and have requested a permanent exclusion order against the iPod.

There was no immediate comment from Apple. An ITC evidentiary hearing on the allegation will be held before an administrative judge later this year.

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