



Japan Customs has implemented the Advance Filing Rules on Maritime Container Cargo Information since March 2014 as one of the measures against terrorism. This rule requires detailed cargo information to be submitted Japan Customs via NACCS at least 24hours before a ship departs from the port of loading.

There are some cases that the cargo information is filed with inappropriate descriptions or filed after the filing deadline.

Persons obliged to file are required to file appropriate cargo descriptions by the filing deadline.

○ Compliance with the rules

- There are still some cases that the cargo information (particularly House B/L) is filed with inappropriate descriptions or filed after the filing deadline.
- An inappropriate filing could hinder a risk analysis by Japan Customs and lead to a delay in loading, discharging, or delivering the cargo, which would cause damage to related parties.

Persons obliged to file (Shipping companies and NVOCCs) should be aware of the following:

1. File appropriate cargo descriptions by the deadline.
2. Share the relevant information with each other for an appropriate filing.
(Vessel Information such as vessel code and voyage number, Master B/L Number, presence or absence of House B/L, etc.)

○ Summary of the AFR

Cargoes to be filed	Maritime container cargoes loaded on a vessel to Japan	
Persons obliged to file and filing particulars	Shipping company	Cargo information (Master B/L)
	NVOCC	Cargo information (House B/L)
Filing methods	All filings are to be done electronically	
Deadline of filing	In principle, 24 hours before departure from a port of loading	
Penalty	Any person who files no (or false) cargo information by the deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An imprisonment with labor for up to a maximum period of one year • A fine not exceeding five hundred thousand yen 	

○ Advance Notice from Customs

- Japan Customs provides the following advance notice as a result of a risk analysis.
- If “SPD” is notified, the cargo must not be discharged without a permission by Customs.

1. DNL	For instructing NOT loading of the cargo on a vessel at a foreign port.
2. HLD	For requiring adding or correcting information.
3. DNU	For requiring to suspend the discharge of the cargo from the vessel in Japan.
4. SPD	For notifying the cargo information is not filed or filed after the deadline.

Inquiry about the AFR (only in English or in Japanese)

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Japan Customs website on AFR

<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/advance5/index.htm>

Japan Customs AFR

