Chapter 4

More Efficient Customs

Clearance with ICT

The volume of import and export cargoes keeps increasing as society and economy are more globalized. Japan Customs has continuously upgraded import/export procedures, making full use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to further facilitate international trade.
Further facilitation of import/export procedures

Nippon Automated Cargo and port Consolidated System (NACCS), which has been developed under public-private partnership, has realized automation of import/export procedures as well as other services provided by the private sector such as cargo storage and management. NACCS has contributed to faster import/export procedures, not only those of customs but also other government agencies.

Faster Customs Clearance Procedures through NACCS

Appropriate and fast import/export processing through the system jointly developed with the private sector

NACCS has played a major role in processing import/export declarations at seaports and airports. NACCS started its operation in 1978 as the Air-NACCS at Narita International Airport covering air cargo import declarations and it is one of the clearance systems introduced at very early time compared to other countries. The coverage of Air-NACCS was expanded later to export declarations and airplane arrival/departure notification, and extended to other airports throughout Japan. Then, the Sea-NACCS was introduced in 1991 in Tokyo-Yokohama port area. The Sea-NACCS was upgraded in 1999 and extended its services to include almost all customs procedures. Its service area was also expanded to seaports all over the country. The Port EDI system of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism was integrated into the Sea-NACCS in October 2008. In February 2010, the Air-NACCS and the Sea-NACCS were integrated into one single NACCS.

The Japan Electronic open network TRAde control System (JETRAS) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, which performs trade control procedures, was also integrated into NACCS. Around 98% of import and export declarations are processed electronically through NACCS. NACCS also provides automatic foreign exchange adjustment, calculation of duties and electronic fund transfer in import declarations. NACCS has significantly reduced overall time for customs clearance and other related procedures, compared to manual processing without using the system.

Air Cargo

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<th>Flight caterer &amp; supplier</th>
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<td>NACCS</td>
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<td>Airline Company</td>
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<td>Agents of Airline Company</td>
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Sea Cargo

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One stop streamlined service for release/clearance process

Customs has been a leading agency of Single Window in Japan, which enables traders, with single input or data entry on the integrated electronic windows, to lodge import/export declarations, vessel and airplane clearance transaction and some quarantine and immigration procedures.

New single Window since October 2008

COMMON PORTAL MANAGING DIFFERENT AGENCY’S PROCEDURES

Completing all procedures with single input/data entry

In order to reduce the time to bring imported food products to each household, it is necessary to expedite both customs import procedures and procedures of other government agencies to ensure peoples’ health and safety, such as examinations for infectious diseases and food additives. A one stop service, which processes import/export procedures of both customs and other government agencies at the same time, started in February 1997 by connecting Food Automated Import Notification and Inspection System (FAINS) of Ministry of Health and Welfare with NACCS. Later, Plant Quarantine NETWORK System (PQ-NETWORK) and Animal Quarantine Inspection Procedure Automated System (ANIPAS), systems of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, were also connected with NACCS. Furthermore, in July 2003, the single-window service, which enables users to complete all requirements with a single entry form, started for port and import procedures. Since October 2008, the Common Portal, a new single-window with unified application (data entry) windows and user codes for different procedures, has been in operation. The new single window system will be continuously updated through cooperation between the government and the private sector. Procedures under the port authority were added to the single window system in October 2009, and airplane arrival/departure notification procedures was added in February 2010.
Since its introduction in 1978, NACCS has been operated as a public-private system processing both customs procedures and related services provided by the private sector.

In October 2008, the Port EDI system and the Crew Landing Permit Support System for Immigration were integrated into NACCS, which boosted the system into a full-fledged Nippon Automated Cargo and port Consolidated System (NACCS) that covers all port and import/export procedures. In addition, the Japan Electronic open network TRAde control System (JETRAS) which processes applications for import and export license was integrated into NACCS in February 2010. The systems of other government agencies will also be integrated into NACCS in coming years, and the agencies involved currently study and prepare for the integration. NACCS continues to be a core system to process import/export procedures and port clearance procedures beyond the boundaries between the private and public sectors and among different ministries.

ASEAN plans to establish an ASEAN Single Window connecting each member state’s National Single Window, which each ASEAN member is supposed to develop by 2012. APEC also supports to establish national and regional single windows and there are growing interests in development of single windows and international cooperation in the area. Under these circumstances, Trade Procedures Reform Programs (July 2009, second revised version) in the government’s Basic Policy for Economic and Fiscal Reform in June 2007 proposed that Japan Customs would pursue international linkages among various systems by utilizing NACCS. Following the proposal, NACCS, Inc (NACCS Center) is currently negotiating with customs and authorized service providers operating trade-related systems in ASEAN countries, seeking possibility of electronic exchanges of trade data, such as invoices, packing lists and certificates of origin. The NACCS Center also began studying electronic issuance of certificates of origin.

NACCS Inc.: http://www.naccs.jp/