

## . SIGNIFICANT INTERDICTIONS IN 2002

### 1. Stimulants

#### [Interdiction of a large amount of stimulant smuggling through trafficking on the sea]

In January, in cooperation with the Fukuoka Prefectural Police and the 7th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, Moji Custom-House inspected a Chinese ship anchored in the Genkainada Sea, and found about 151 kg of stimulants hidden in the hold.



#### [Interdiction of tablet stimulants disguised as sweets etc. held by a Japanese passenger]

In October, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese female passenger who had arrived at Narita Airport from Hong Kong, and found about 8,000 tablets of stimulants (about 3 kg) hidden in tea cans and sweets packages in her suitcase.



#### [Interdiction of stimulants carried by a Japanese passenger and handed over to a security guard in the airport in a restricted area]

In November, in cooperation with the Chiba Prefectural Police, Tokyo Customs questioned a Japanese passenger who had arrived from Hong Kong at Narita Airport, as he handed document cases to a Japanese male employee of a security company in the airport before going through customs inspection. About 7 kg of stimulants were found inside the document cases.



**[Interdiction of a large amount of stimulants that washed ashore in Nawa Town, Tottori Prefecture, etc.]**

In November and December, Kobe Customs and Tottori Prefectural Police, etc. carried out joint research and investigation regarding about 237 kg of stimulants washed ashore on the beach in Nawa Town, Tottori Prefecture, etc., about which they had received information from a citizen.



**Other Smuggling Cases**

(1) Smuggling of controlled chlorofluorocarbons (popularly called CFC 12)

A series of smuggling cases of "specified CFCs," which include some chlorofluorocarbons whose import and export is controlled under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, were interdicted (7 cases interdicted with a total seizure of 24,329 kg in 2002).



## 2. Cannabis

### **[Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in "false-bottom" suitcases carried by airplane passengers]**

In June, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of four Korean female passengers who arrived at Narita Airport from Thailand via South Korea, and found about 38 kg of herbal cannabis in their false-bottom portable suitcases.



### **[Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in folk handcraft products in unaccompanied parcels]**

In June, Osaka Customs inspected import parcels that arrived at Kansai Airport from Senegal, and found about 6 kg of herbal cannabis concealed in folk handcraft drums. Customs then arrested one Senegalese male in cooperation with the Osaka Prefectural Police.



### **[Interdiction of cannabis resin smuggled by ship crew members]**

In March, Osaka Customs followed two crew members of a Russian ship that entered Toyama New Port from Russia as they disembarked with backpacks and walked out of the port. In cooperation with the Toyama Prefectural Police and the Fushiki Coast Guard Office, Osaka Customs inspected the backpacks of those two crew members and found some 10 kg of cannabis resin.



**[Interdiction of a large amount of cannabis resin concealed in calendars]**

In December, Tokyo Customs inspected import air cargo (calendars and handicrafts) from Nepal, and found some 52 kg of cannabis resin concealed between false pages of calendars, investigated the receiver etc. in cooperation with the Chiba Prefectural Police, Saitama Prefectural Police and Gunma Prefectural Police, and seized a total of about 147 kg of cannabis resin, including the one which had been already received and stored by the receiver.



**[Interdiction of cannabis resin a passenger swallowed for hiding]**

In July, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese male passenger arriving at Narita Airport from India via Thailand, and a sniffer dog detected something. A strict investigation was made until some 0.3 kg of cannabis resin was found from inside the body of the passenger.



### 3. Illicit in Tablet Form Drugs

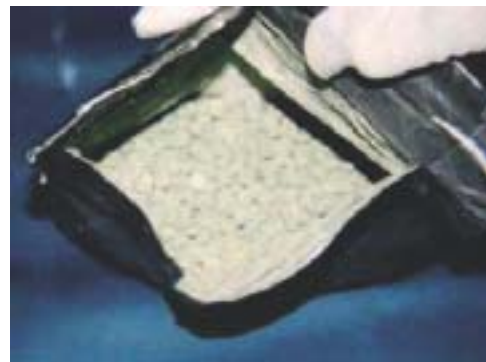
#### **[Interdiction of a large amount of MDMA concealed in false-bottom suitcases carried by a passenger]**

In April, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a British male passenger who arrived at Narita Airport from Belgium via England, and found some 41,000 tablets of MDMA and about 1 kg of cocaine concealed in his false-bottom suitcase.



#### **[Interdiction of stimulant-and-MDMA mixed tablets wrapped around a passenger]**

In January, Osaka Customs inspected the baggage of a New Zealander male passenger who arrived at Kansai Airport from the Netherlands via France, and found about 15,000 tablets of stimulant-and-MDMA mixture wrapped around his belly.



#### 4. Heroin and Opium

##### [Interdiction of heroin smuggled by passengers from Laos to Australia]

In December, Tokyo Customs questioned at the airport four Japanese male and female passengers who arrived at Narita via Vietnam and were just about to leave Narita Airport for Australia in order to smuggle heroin from Laos to Australia, and found about 17 kg of heroin concealed in tea cans in duty-free shop's bags they were carrying.



##### [Interdiction of opium swallowed and concealed inside the body of a passenger]

In June, Nagoya Customs inspected the baggage of a German male passenger who arrived at Nagoya from Thailand, and found some 1.4 kg of opium swallowed and concealed inside his body.



#### Other Smuggling Cases

##### (2) Smuggling of counterfeit credit cards (original plates)

The number of smuggling cases of plastic cards (original plates) used to produce counterfeit credit cards increased (9 cases with 15,056 cards seized in 2002).



## 5. Cocaine

### [Interdiction of cocaine smuggling through local ports]

In June, Nagasaki Customs questioned two visitors (one Peruvian male and one Colombian male) during a stakeout to a Philippine ship that entered Shibushi Port from Columbia via Aomori Port, and found about 5 kg of cocaine wrapped around their bodies.



### [Interdiction of cocaine concealed in the baggage of a passenger]

In October, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Brazilian male passenger who arrived at Narita Airport from Brazil via Switzerland, and found about 5 kg of cocaine wrapped in a parachute in his bag, which had casters attached.



## 6. Firearms

### [Interdiction of handguns carried by a passenger around his body]

In June, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Police Department, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese male passenger who arrived at Narita from the Philippines, and found six handguns and 111 bullets wrapped around his body.



### [Interdiction of pen-type guns delivered by international mail]

In January, Kobe Customs found one pen-type disguised gun in a parcel mailed from South Africa, investigated the home of the receiver in cooperation with the Hyogo Prefectural Police, found another pen-type gun, and arrested a male Japanese.



### Other Smuggling Cases

#### (3) Smuggling of stolen cars

In recent years, car theft cases have been increasing in number. Customs strengthened ties with police and other related organizations to track down illegal exporting of stolen cars (319 cases of stolen car smuggling interdicted with a total of 540 cars seized in 2002).

