

II. SIGNIFICANT INTERDICTIONS IN 2003

1. Stimulants

[Interdiction of a large amount of stimulants concealed in a maritime container cargo]

- In March, Yokohama Customs and Tokyo Customs inspected a maritime container cargo (description: porcelain ornaments) which had arrived in the Port of Yokohama from China, in cooperation with the Kanagawa Prefectural Police, the Metropolitan Police Department and the Chiba Prefectural Police and found stimulants weighing approximately 260 kg in total. The stimulants were shrewdly concealed in the remodeled wooden pedestals of each porcelain ornament.



[Interdiction of water solution of stimulants camouflaged as high-grade foreign liquor of an air passenger]

- In September, Moji Customs inspected the baggage of a Taiwanese male air passenger who had arrived at the Fukuoka Airport from Taiwan and found approximately 1.7-kg water solution of stimulants camouflaged as high-grade foreign liquor.



[Interdiction of stimulants camouflaged as chocolate confectionery of an air passenger]

- In October, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Taiwanese female air passenger who had arrived at Narita Airport from Hong Kong and found approximately 1 kg of stimulants camouflaged as chocolate confectionery.



[Interdiction of stimulants concealed in an air cargo]

- In May, Tokyo Customs inspected an express consignment which had arrived at Narita Airport from the Philippines (description: dried mango etc.) and found approximately 1 kg of stimulants concealed in small bags of peanuts.



[Interdiction of stimulants smuggling using the engine room of a vessel of Chinese nationality which had arrived in the Port of Hachinohe from China]

- In October, Hakodate Customs, with the Hachinohe Coast Guard Office, searched a vessel of Chinese nationality which had arrived in the Port of Hachinohe from Dalian, China, and found approximately 2 kg of stimulants concealed in a sand box placed in the vessel's engine room.



2. Cannabis

[Interdiction of a large amount of herbal cannabis concealed in a suitcase carried by an air passenger]

- In August, Nagoya Customs inspected the baggage of a South African male air passenger who had arrived at Nagoya Airport from South Africa via Hong Kong and found approximately 21 kg of herbal cannabis concealed in his suitcase.



[Interdiction of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin concealed in the double-soled shoes etc. of an air passenger]

- In August, Nagoya Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese male air passenger who had arrived at Nagoya Airport from Germany, and found approximately 4 kg of herbal cannabis and approximately 1 kg of cannabis resin from his suitcase and the double-soled shoes he had on.



[Interdiction of cannabis resin concealed around the body of an air passenger]

- In January, Tokyo Customs inspected a German male air passenger who had arrived at Narita Airport from Thailand and found approximately 3 kg of cannabis resin wound around his thighs.



[Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in a generator transported as an air cargo]

- In January, Tokyo Customs inspected an air cargo (description: generator, etc.) which had arrived at Narita Airport from Nigeria, and found approximately 15 kg of herbal cannabis concealed in the fuel tank and muffler (silencer) of the generator.



[Interdiction of cannabis resin concealed in the pendant tops transported as an air cargo]

- In May, Osaka Customs inspected an air cargo (description: pendant tops) which had arrived at Kansai Airport from Nepal, and found approximately 1 kg of cannabis resin shrewdly concealed in the backs of the pendant tops.



Other Smuggling Cases: counterfeit credit cards, etc.

Recently, crimes using counterfeit credit cards are often committed in Japan. Accordingly, many smuggling cases of plastic cards (before electronic data input) for making counterfeit credit cards occurred (12 cases with 19,000 cards were interdicted in 2003). Other counterfeit goods which were detected in 2003 include beer coupons, highway prepaid cards, merchandise coupons of major department stores, revenue stamps, insurance certificates, etc.



Counterfeit credit cards



Counterfeit merchandise coupons

3. Tablet-type Illicit Drugs

[Largest amount (per case) of MDMA seized]

- In April, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese male air passenger and a Japanese female air passenger who had arrived at Narita Airport from Netherlands via France, and found approximately 60,000 tablets of MDMA concealed in their false-bottom suitcases.



[Interdiction of MDMA concealed in the international mail]

- In May, Tokyo Customs found about 20,000 tablets of MDMA concealed between plywood plates of a picture frame during inspections of international express mail from Belgium.



[Interdiction of MDMA concealed in a false-bottom suitcase carried by an air passenger]

- In September, Tokyo Customs inspected the baggage of a Japanese male air passenger who had arrived at Narita Airport from Germany via France, and found approximately 25,000 tablets of MDMA and approximately 1 kg of MDMA crystals which had been concealed in his false-bottom suitcase.



4. Other Illicit Drugs

[Interdiction of heroin concealed in the double-soled sandals of air passengers]

- In January, Osaka Customs inspected the baggage of a Vietnamese male air passenger, a Japanese male air passenger and a Japanese female air passenger, who had arrived at Kansai Airport from Vietnam via Hong Kong, and found approximately 1.4 kg of heroin concealed in the double-soled sandals which they were wearing.



[Interdiction of opium smuggled by a ship crew member]

- In February, Tokyo Customs was keeping a cargo boat of Cambodian nationality under surveillance in cooperation with the Niigata Prefectural Police Headquarters and the Niigata Coast Guard Office. The boat had left the Port of Nakhodka, Russia, and arrived in the Port of Niigata. A Russian crew member on board was seen unloading and concealing in a forest near the port approximately 4 kg of opium and approximately 5 kg of cannabis resin.



5. Firearms

[Interdiction of a handgun etc. concealed in an international postal parcel]

- In January, Yokohama Customs inspected a maritime postal parcel from the U.S.A. and found a handgun with 125 bullets, taped and packed in a cardboard shoebox.



[Interdiction of firearms concealed in a secondhand motorboat from the U.S.A.]

- In August, Yokohama Customs inspected a secondhand motorboat which had arrived in the Port of Yokohama from the U.S.A. with large-scale X-ray machine, and found two handguns, a rifle, a shotgun and 1,048 bullets concealed in a steel box camouflaged as a ballast tank.



General view of the motorboat



Pilot's seat

