

II. SIGNIFICANT INTERDICTIONS IN 2007

1. Interdiction Cases by Smuggling Type

(1) Smuggling Using Commercial Cargo

In 2007, the number of smuggling interdiction cases using sea cargoes largely increased to 11 (about 5.5 times that of the previous year), the largest number in the last 5 years, resulting in a rapid increase of the amount of seizure for illicit drugs.

- 1) In August 2007, Osaka Customs interdicted multiple illicit drugs in a large amount at one time, which included about 155 kg of stimulants, about 280 kg of cannabis and about 688 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in lumber arriving at Osaka port from Canada detected by import inspection. This amount of seizure for MDMA was a record high.



- 2) In October 2007, Moji Customs interdicted about 147 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in a large mixer that arrived at Fukuoka Airport from the Netherlands by import inspection.



- 3) In July 2007, Tokyo Customs and Osaka Customs, in cooperation with relevant organizations, interdicted about 22 kg of stimulants hidden in a pillar-shaped plaster ornament that arrived at Kansai International Airport from Canada via Hong Kong by import inspection of air cargo.



- 4) In January 2007, Osaka Customs interdicted about 30 kg of herbal cannabis and about 9 kg of cannabis resin hidden in a corrugated cardboard box packaging a mountain bike that arrived at Osaka port from the Netherlands by import inspection for mountain bikes.



(2) Interdiction Cases of Smuggling by Parents and Children

In 2007, smuggling cases of illicit drugs by actual parents and children were interdicted. This is an unprecedented devious technique to cheat the inspection by putting the Customs inspector off his guard.

- 1) In March 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 89 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in a suitcase of a Japanese parent with a child who arrived at Narita International Airport from Germany by baggage inspection.



- 2) In June 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 2 kg of stimulants hidden in the bottoms of shoes worn by a Japanese parent with a minor who arrived at Narita International Airport from Hong Kong by baggage inspection.



2. Interdiction Cases by Substance Type

(1) Stimulants

[Interdiction of stimulants concealed in air passengers' accompanied personal effects]

In January 2007, Nagoya Customs interdicted about 4 kg of stimulants hidden in the false top and bottom of a suitcase by inspection of personal effects brought into Japan by an Australian female passenger arriving at Chubu International Airport from Turkey.



[Interdiction of stimulants hidden in bottoms of shoes worn by air passenger]

In March 2007, Hakodate Customs interdicted about 600 g of stimulants hidden in the bottoms of shoes worn by a Chinese male passenger arriving at New Chitose Airport from China by inspection of personal effects brought into Japan.



(2) Cannabis

[Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in air passengers' accompanied personal effects]

In November 2007, Hakodate Customs interdicted about 14 kg of herbal cannabis hidden in a car-mount amplifier by a Japanese male passenger arriving at New Chitose Airport from U.S.A. by inspection of personal effects brought into Japan.



[Interdiction of cannabis resin swallowed by an air passenger]

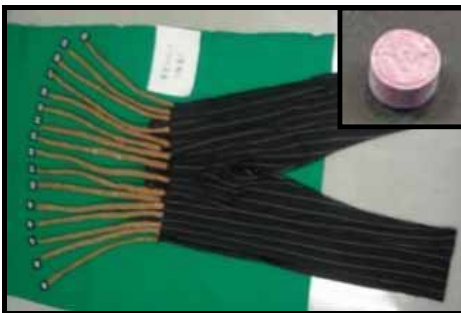
In October 2007, Okinawa regional Customs interdicted about 200 g of cannabis resin swallowed by a Japanese male passenger arriving at Naha Airport from India via Taiwan during the Customs inspection of personal effects.



(3) MDMA and Other Tablet-type Synthetic Narcotics

[Interdiction of MDMA hidden in an air passenger's accompanied personal effects]

In July 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 1.5 kg of herbal cannabis hidden in the bottoms of shoes worn by, about 470 g of herbal cannabis swallowed by, and about 10 thousand tablets of MDMA concealed by sewing into the leggings worn by a Dutch male passenger arriving at Narita International Airport from the Netherlands by inspection of personal effects brought into Japan.



[Interdiction of MDMA hidden in an air passenger's accompanied personal effects]

In July 2007, Osaka Customs interdicted about 40 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in a suitcase by a Japanese male passenger arriving at Kansai International Airport from Germany by inspection of personal effects brought into Japan.



(4) Other Illicit Drugs

[Interdiction of opium hidden in an air passenger's accompanied personal effects]

In April 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 7 kg of opium hidden in the false top and bottom of a suitcase during the Customs inspection of personal effects brought into Japan by a Turkish male passenger arriving at Narita International Airport from Turkey.



[Interdiction of cocaine hidden in an international speed mail]

In June 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 400 g of cocaine hidden in dried vegetables during the Customs import inspection of an international speed mail (EMS) that arrived at Tokyo International Post Office from Peru.



[Interdiction of ketamine hidden in an air passenger's accompanied personal effects]

In July 2007, Tokyo Customs interdicted about 3 kg of ketamine hidden in bandages wound around the legs during the Customs inspection of personal effects brought into Japan by 2 Taiwanese male passengers arriving at Narita International Airport from Taiwan.



(5) Firearms

[Interdiction of a gun hidden in international mail]

In April 2007, Kobe Customs interdicted one gun hidden in a mail package by import inspection of international mail arriving at Kobe Chuo Post Office from Germany.

