

2015 Edition

**TRENDS IN
ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS
SMUGGLING IN JAPAN**

("White Powder and Black Firearms" Report)

**Post Clearance Audit, Investigation And
Intelligence Division
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PREFACE

Recent developments toward a global economy and borderless societies have brought about an increase of international distribution and international travelers. Consequently, the request to expedite customs clearance has risen, and efforts have been made to harmonize the trade and customs clearance procedures at the international level. At the same time, in Japan, the abuse of methamphetamine or designated substances and the occurrence of serious crimes using guns have become major social problems in Japan.

Given the fact that juvenile crimes and serious crimes are occurring in people's immediate surroundings, the government has secured close cooperation between the concerned Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures and the concerned administrative authorities to remake Japan as the safest country in the world and has convened the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in September 2003 in order to promote efficient and proper measures comprehensively and aggressively. In December 2013, the strategy to create the safest country, Japan, was drawn up as a new action plan at the Ministerial Meeting. Currently, concerned government agencies are implementing various measures in an integrated manner. Under the Ministerial Meeting, the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse was convened for control of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine, and the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms was also convened for control of firearms, such as guns. The government is striving to enhance measures against illicit drugs and firearms as a whole.

Under such circumstances, the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance sees the prevention of goods harmful to the society, such as illicit drugs or firearms, from entering Japan at the border as one of the most important issues and strives to enhance such prevention by promoting various measures, including the enhancement of collection and analysis of information, strengthening of cooperation between concerned authorities, and reinforcement of border control system.

This booklet features smuggling trends in Japan and law enforcement measures being implemented by Japan Customs, considering the importance of law enforcement activities at the border against smuggling of goods harmful to society. Through this booklet, we would like to provide some insight for law enforcement officials, contribute to a better understanding by the public about Customs enforcement activities, and ask for their greater cooperation with Customs.

Post Clearance Audit,
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Ministry of Finance

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