

2016 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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CONTENTS

I. TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUGS SMUGGLING

1. Trends in Illicit Drugs Smuggling	
(1) Methamphetamine	1
(2) Cannabis	6
(3) Narcotics.....	6
(4) Designated Substances	6
2. Firearms.....	7

II. LAW ENFORCEMENT AT THE BORDER AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ITEMS

1. Government Initiatives	8
(1) Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime	8
(2) Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse	8
(3) Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms	9
2. Law Enforcement by Japan Customs	12
(1) Consolidation of Organization for Enforcement	12
(2) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information on Smuggling	12
(3) Effective Use of Enforcement Equipment	14
(4) Closer Cooperation with Relevant Agencies	15
(5) Promotion of International Information Exchange.....	16
(6) Technical Cooperation in the Field of Customs Enforcement	18

REFERENCE DATA

1. Major seizures of illicit drugs and firearms (Top Three Cases)	20
2. Seizures of major illicit drugs and firearms.....	21
3. Number of seizures for major illicit drugs by mode of transport.....	22
4. Number of seizures of methamphetamine by mode of transport.....	22
5. Number of seizures of methamphetamine by source	23
6. Number of seizures of cannabis by mode of transport.....	24
7. Number of seizures of herbal cannabis by source	24
8. Number of seizures of cannabis resin by source	25