

# V. CUSTOMS CONTROLS AGAINST SMUGGLING OF OTHER ITEMS

There are other items prohibited from import and export under the Customs Act, in addition to illicit drugs, firearms, and goods infringing intellectual property rights. There are also items whose import and export are regulated under other domestic laws and regulations.

## 1. Smuggling Cases Involving CITES-listed Species

In 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in Washington D.C. for the purpose of regulating international trade of endangered species and protecting them from extinction. This Convention is called the Washington Convention. The Convention covers not only live animals and plants as pets or for appreciation, but also processed products, such as stuffed animals, and coats and other clothes, handbags, belts, shoes, pieces of work, and Chinese medicines, etc. using animals and plants.

During the one-year period from January to December of 2021, Customs made accusations of 2 smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species.

### < Major smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species >

#### [Case 1] Smuggling of *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Customs accused two Japanese nationals who attempted to smuggle **approx. 6.9 kg of carapace of *Eretmochelys imbricata* (sea turtle)** by the use of international mail from Haiti of violating the Customs Act.

(Mar. 2021; Tokyo Customs)



#### [Case 2] Smuggling of skeletal preparations, etc. of *Alligator mississippiensis*

Customs accused a corporation and a Japanese national that smuggled **skeletal preparations, etc. of *Alligator mississippiensis*** by the use of air cargo from the United States of violating the Customs Act.

(Dec. 2021; Tokyo Customs)



## 2. Illicit Export Cases

There are specific cargo items whose export requires permission or approval under laws and regulations other than the Customs Act. The effectiveness of regulations under these laws and regulations is to be secured by linking them with the export permission system under the Customs Act. In collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies, Customs also regulates illicit exports that may lead to the outflow of products and technologies that are likely to be diverted to military use.

Customs made accusations of a total of 4 cases of illicit export during the one-year period from January to December of 2021.

### < Major export cases >

#### [Case 1]

##### Illicit export of giant servos

Customs accused a corporation and a Japanese national that attempted to export **150 giant servos\*** illicitly by air to China of violating the Customs Act. (Jul. 2021; Tokyo Customs)

\* A device to receive electrical signals and convert them to mechanical motion that is used for radio-controlled vehicles, etc.

#### [Case 2]

##### Illicit export of underwater acoustic equipment

Customs accused a corporation and three Japanese nationals that exported **sets of underwater acoustic equipment** illicitly by ship to Peru and Chili of violating the Customs Act. (Dec. 2021; Kobe Customs)

## 3. Counterfeit Securities

Under the Customs Act, counterfeits, forgeries, and imitations of coins, bills, bank notes, stamps, postal stamps, and securities, and counterfeit cards are specified as cargo that must not be imported. In June 2021, Customs made accusations of a case of counterfeit securities.

### < Smuggling of counterfeit securities >

#### [Case] Smuggling of counterfeit securities

Customs accused two Chinese nationals who attempted to smuggle **1,431 pieces of counterfeit securities** by the use of air cargo from China of violating the Customs Act.

(Jun. 2021; Moji Customs)

