

1108: Expediting Import Clearance by the Pre-arrival Examination System

Pre-arrival Examination System

The Pre-arrival Examination System allows the importer to submit import-related documents to customs before the cargo arrives in Japan or before import related procedures, such as import licenses issued by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry are complete. By completing the examination before the cargo arrives, customs can send the importer a notification (physical inspection, document examination, or simplified examination).

Cargoes Covered by the System

The Pre-arrival Examination System can be applied to imported cargoes that are in need of quick processing: namely, those shipments which require speedy clearance due to the nature of the content, such as fresh food, those under strict delivery terms, those with a seasonally limited market, such as Christmas and New Year's articles, etc., those requiring procedures under other laws and regulations, and those requiring extensive examination of import declarations, such as items requiring various documents.

Advantages of Pre-arrival Examination System

1. Documents are examined prior to the arrival of the shipment.
2. Some cargoes are required to undergo other legal procedures. This system allows such procedures to be conducted simultaneously with customs procedures.
3. Taking into consideration the type of cargo and other relevant factors, if customs determines that prior notification(physical inspection, document examination, or simplified examination) can be given, the importer can make prior arrangements to facilitate handover of goods.

However, after giving the notification, that may be changed if customs decides that an inspection is required at the time of the import declaration. Please understand this and use this system accordingly.

To Use the Pre-arrival Examination System

- (1) Target cargo: All imported cargoes
- (2) Documents to be submitted: Pre-arrival declaration form (an import [duty payment] declaration form is used for this purpose), invoice, other necessary information for the determination of tax base.
- (3) Customs office for the submission of documents: A pre-arrival declaration form should be submitted to the customs office which controls the bonded area where the cargo is expected to be brought in.
- (4) Submission time: A pre-arrival declaration can be made at any time either after the bill of lading (Air Way Bill in the case of air cargo) related to the pre-arrival declaration is issued or after the foreign exchange rate for the scheduled import declaration date is announced; whichever is later.

Inquiries

Hakodate Customs	Supervisory Entry Inspector, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 0138-40-4258
Tokyo Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 03-3599-6337
Yokohama Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 045-212-6150
Nagoya Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 052-654-4085
Osaka Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 06-6576-3313
Kobe Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 078-333-3086
Moji Customs	Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 050-3530-8367
Nagasaki Customs	Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 095-828-0126
Okinawa Regional Customs	First Custom Clearance Department, Customs Clearance Division	Tel: 098-862-9291

(Article 67, Article 67-2, Article 68, and Article 70 of the Customs Law, Article 4-7 of the Customs Tariff Law)