

**2021 Edition**

# **Trends in Smuggling in Japan**

**("White Powder and Black Firearms" Report)**

**Post Clearance Audit, Investigation and  
Intelligence Division  
Customs and Tariff Bureau  
Ministry of Finance**

## PREFACE

Amid the expansion of international distribution and personnel exchanges accompanying the further globalization of society, we are now facing greater risks of smuggling of goods harmful to society, such as methamphetamine and other illicit drugs that threaten the safety and peace of people's lives, guns and other terrorism-related materials, and goods infringing intellectual property rights. These tendencies have been continuing even after dramatic changes occurred in the distribution of goods and human movement due to the expansion of the COVID-19 infection, and the circumstances concerning the flow of goods harmful to society into Japan seem to have become even more serious.

Under such circumstances, Japan Customs and the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance position the prevention of goods harmful to society from entering Japan at the border as one of the most important issues and are proactively promoting various measures, including the enhancement of collection and analysis of information, strengthening of cooperation with the relevant authorities, and further deployment the border control equipment, while making efforts to flexibly respond to the diversification of smuggling tactics.

This booklet features smuggling trends in Japan and countermeasures being implemented by Japan Customs, considering the importance of Customs controls at the border against the 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, Investigation and Intelligence Division,  
Customs and Tariff Bureau,  
Ministry of Finance

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