

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.

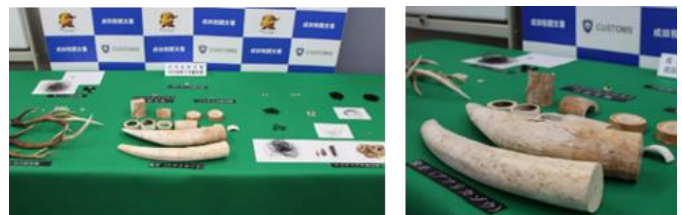
During the one-year period from January to December of 2020, Customs made accusations of 3 smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species.

< Major smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species >

[Case 1] Smuggling of ivory

Customs accused a Laotian national who attempted to smuggle **13 pieces of ivory** by air to Laos via Vietnam of violating the Customs Act.

(Jan. 2020; Tokyo Customs)



[Case 2] Smuggling of neoceratodus forsteri

Customs accused one corporation and two Japanese nationals who smuggled **15 neoceratodus forsteri** by the use of air cargo from Indonesia of violating the Customs Act.

(Mar. 2020; Tokyo Customs)



2. 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. Customs made accusations of a total of 5 cases of illicit export during the one-year period from January to December of 2020.

< Major export cases >

[Case] Smuggling of young eels

Customs accused six Japanese and one South Korean nationals who attempted to smuggle **58 kg of young eels** by air to Hong Kong of violating the Customs Act.

(Aug. 2020; Osaka Customs)



3. Counterfeit Credit Cards, etc.

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 2009, cards that would be made into counterfeit credit cards (blank cards) were added to articles prohibited from import. Customs made accusations of cases of counterfeit credit cards and blank cards.

< Major smuggling cases of counterfeit credit cards, etc. >

[Case] Smuggling of counterfeit credit cards, etc.

Customs accused three Malaysians nationals who attempted to smuggle **34 counterfeit credit cards and one blank card** by air from Taiwan of violating the Customs Act.

(Apr. and Jun. 2020; Okinawa Regional Customs)

