

2024 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.

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, further deployment of border control equipment, and utilization of cutting-edge technologies, in order to deal with the diversification of smuggling tactics. Japan Customs and the Customs and Tariff Bureau have compiled "Action Plan 2022 for the Realization of SMART Customs" and have been taking actions with the aim of improving the sophistication and efficiency of customs services and achieving the "world's leading Customs."

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

CONTENTS

I. TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUGS SMUGGLING	1
1. Seizures of Smuggled Illicit Drugs	1
2. Influences of Illicit Drug Abuse	6
II. TRENDS IN FIREARMS SMUGGLING	8
III. TRENDS IN GOLD BULLION SMUGGLING	9
1. Seizures of Smuggled Gold Bullion	9
2. Mechanism of Gold Bullion Smuggling	11
IV. CUSTOMS CONTROLS AGAINST GOODS INFRINGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	12
1. Import Suspensions Regarding Goods Infringing Intellectual Property Rights	12
2. Accusation Case Related to Goods Infringing Intellectual Property Rights	15
V. CUSTOMS CONTROLS AGAINST SMUGGLING OF OTHER ITEMS	16
1. Smuggling Cases Involving CITES-listed Species	16
2. Illicit Export Cases	16
3. Counterfeit Securities	17
VI. INITIATIVES OF JAPAN CUSTOMS FOR PREVENTING SMUGGLING	18
1. Effective Use of Control/Inspection Equipment and Advanced Technologies	18
2. Customs Controls by Utilizing Information	22
3. Closer Cooperation with Relevant Agencies	24
4. Promotion of International Information Exchange	25
VII. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES	28
1. Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime	28
2. Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse	29
3. Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms	30

REFERENCE DATA	31
1. Types of Illicit Drugs	31
2. Production Methods and Pharmacological Effects, etc. of Major Illicit Drugs	32
3. Types of Firearms	34
4. Types of Pistols by Form	35
5. Trends in Smuggling around the World	36
6. Seizures of Goods Harmful to Society	39
7. Number of Seizures of Major Illicit Drugs by Mode of Transport	40
8-1. Number of Seizures of Methamphetamine by Mode of Transport	40
8-2. Number of Seizures of Methamphetamine by Source	41
9-1. Number of Seizures of Cannabis by Mode of Transport	42
9-2. Number of Seizures of Herbal Cannabis by Source	42
9-3. Number of Seizures of Cannabis Resin, etc. by Source	43
(Reference) Number of Dispositions for Violations of the Customs Act* by Mode of Offense	43
10. Outline of Intellectual Property Rights	44