

## 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 laws and regulations other than customs-related ones.

### 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.

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

##### [Case] Smuggling of monkeys

Customs accused a Japanese national who attempted to smuggle **21 monkeys (Saimiri sciureus, etc.)** by air from Thailand of violating the Customs Act. (Oct. 2022; 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 five cases of illicit export of cigarettes, etc. during the one-year period from January to December of 2023.

### < Major illicit export cases >

#### [Case 1] Illicit export of underwater detection devices

Customs accused a corporation and three Japanese nationals that exported sets of underwater detection devices illicitly to Peru and Chile by ship of violating the Customs Act. (Dec. 2023; Kobe Customs)

#### [Case 2] Illicit export of waste electronic substrates, etc.

Customs accused a corporation and six Chinese nationals that attempted to export waste electronic substrates, etc. (cargo subject to the Basel Convention) illicitly to Malaysia using a foreign-flagged vessel of violating the Customs Act. (Nov. 2022; Osaka Customs)

#### [Case 3] Illicit export of cigarettes

Customs accused a corporation, one Vietnamese national, and one Chinese national that made preparations for exporting 25,000 cigarettes, etc. illicitly to China and Hong Kong by the use of international mail of violating the Customs Act. (May 2023; Yokohama 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 October 2023, Customs made accusations of a case of counterfeit securities.

### < Smuggling of counterfeit securities >

#### [Case] Smuggling of counterfeit securities

Customs accused two Chinese nationals and one Japanese national who attempted to smuggle a total of 1,362 counterfeit securities certificates by air from China of violating the Customs Act. (Oct. 2023; Osaka Customs)

