

2025 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 socioeconomic activities, 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 that impede the development of a sound economy.

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.

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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 Cases 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. GOVERMENT 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	- 38 -
7. Number of Seizures of Major Illicit Drugs by Mode of Transport	- 39 -
8-1. Number of Seizures of Methamphetamine by Mode of Transport	- 39 -
8-2. Number of Seizures of Methamphetamine by Source	- 40 -
9-1. Number of Seizures of Cannabis by Mode of Transport	- 41 -
9-2. Number of Seizures of Herbal Cannabis by Source	- 41 -
9-3. Number of Seizures of Cannabis Resin, etc. by Source	- 42 -
10. Number of Dispositions for Violations of the Customs Act* by Mode of Offense	- 42 -
11. Outline of Intellectual Property Rights	- 43 -