

IV. CUSTOMS CONTROLS AGAINST GOODS INFRINGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

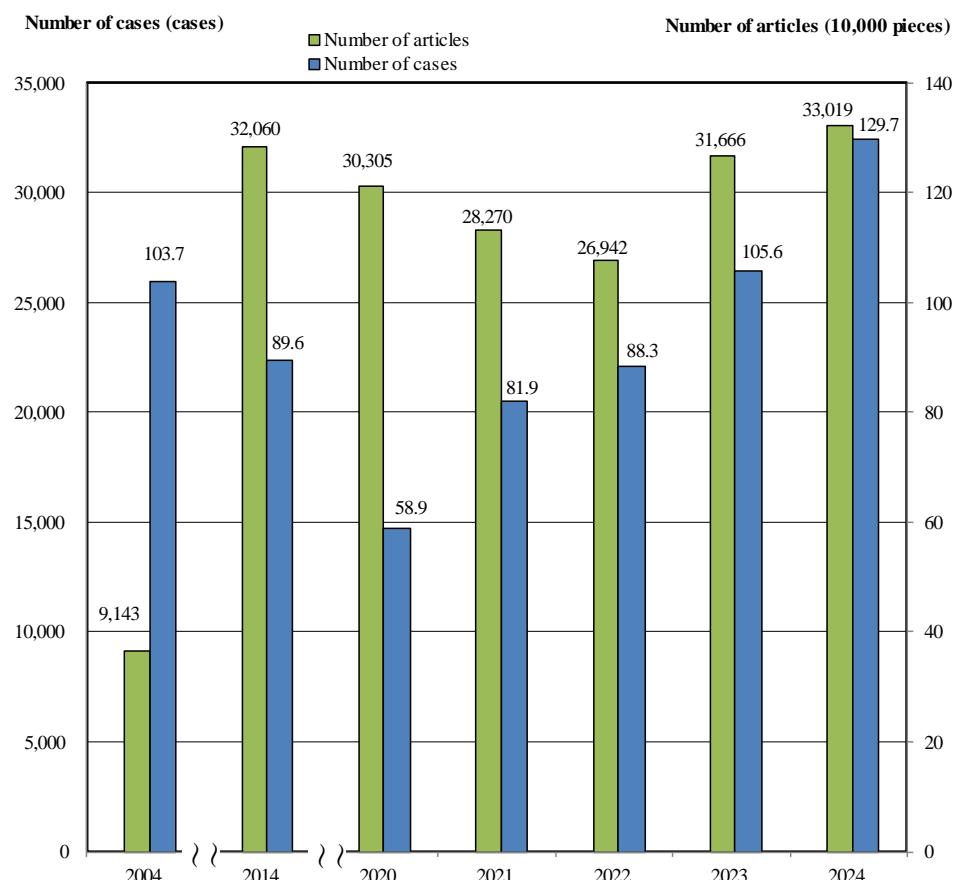
Goods infringing intellectual property rights, such as counterfeit brand-name products, are specified as articles prohibited from import or export under Article 69-2 and Article 69-11 of the Customs Act and are regulated by Customs at the border. When the suspended goods are found to be infringing intellectual property rights, they are confiscated by Customs and the relevant person may be punished in some cases under Article 109 or other provisions of the Customs Act.

1. Import Suspensions Regarding Goods Infringing Intellectual Property Rights

(1) Transition in import suspensions (2024*)

The number of import suspensions by Customs regarding goods infringing intellectual property rights was 33,019 cases (up by 4.3% from the previous year), exceeding 33,000 cases and marking a record high. The number of goods suspended from import was 1,297,113 (up by 22.8% (id.)).

Transition in import suspensions regarding goods infringing intellectual property rights



(Note) The "number of cases" refers to the number of import declarations or postal items that included goods infringing intellectual property rights whose import was prohibited by Customs. The "number of articles" means the number of goods infringing intellectual property rights whose import was suspended by Customs.

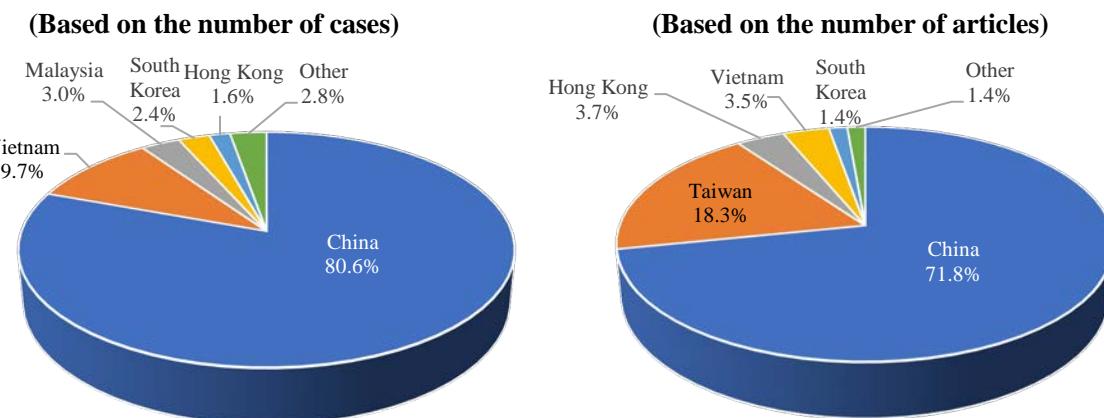
* Website of the Ministry of Finance:

http://www.mof.go.jp/policy/customs_tariff/trade/safe_society/chiteki/cy2024/index.html (Available in Japanese)

(2) Import suspensions by source

With regard to the number of import suspensions, imports from China remained the largest (26,604 cases; composition ratio: 80.6%; up by 5.3% from the previous year). The number of goods suspended from importing was also the largest for those from China (931,082 pieces; composition ratio: 71.8%; up by 1.0% (id.)). China's composition ratios made up of the majority both in terms of the number of cases and the number of articles.

Composition ratio of import suspensions by source (2024)

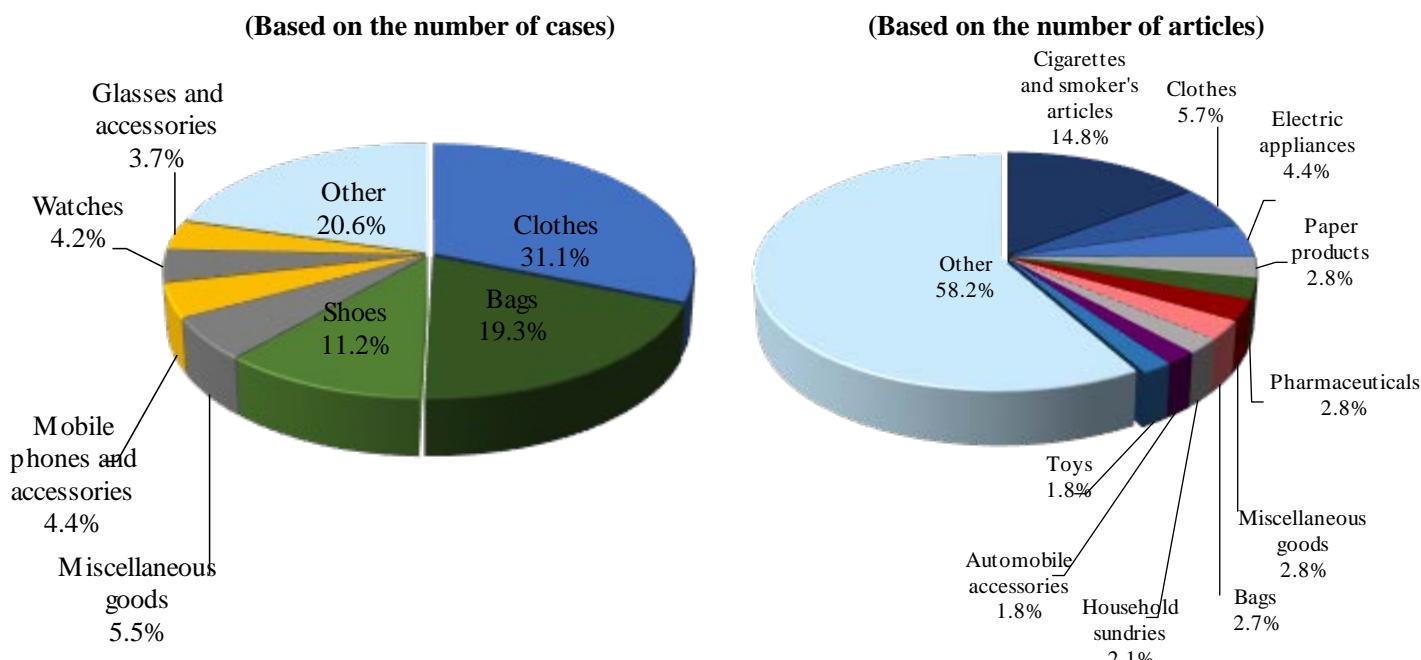


(Note) The total of composition ratios may not be 100% due to rounding.

(3) Import suspensions by item

The number of import suspensions was the largest for clothes at 11,774 cases (composition ratio: 31.1%; up by 13.2% from the previous year), and the number of articles suspended from import was the largest for cigarettes and smokers' articles at 191,976 pieces (composition ratio: 14.8%; down by 39.6% (id.)).

Composition ratio of import suspensions by item (2024)



(Note) The total of composition ratios may not be 100% due to rounding.

(4) Major import suspensions regarding goods infringing intellectual property rights

◆ Goods often subject to import suspensions

Sweaters (Trademark right)



Handbags (Trademark right)



◆ Goods for which import suspensions increased in 2024

Shower heads (Trademark right)



Earphones (Design right)



◆ Goods posing a risk to people's health and safety

Pharmaceuticals (Trademark right)



Gummy candies (Trademark right)



2. Accusation Cases Related to Goods Infringing Intellectual Property Rights

During the one-year period from January to December of 2024, Customs made accusations in a total of 10 smuggling cases.

[Case 1] Smuggling of goods infringing trademark rights

Customs accused one Japanese national who attempted to smuggle **34 pieces of clothing infringing trademark rights** by the use of air cargo from China of violating the Customs Act. (Oct. 2024; Tokyo Customs)



[Case 2] Smuggling of goods infringing trademark rights

Customs accused two Vietnamese nationals who attempted to smuggle **887 necklaces, etc. infringing trademark rights** by the use of international mail from China of violating the Customs Act. (Feb. 2024; Kobe Customs)



[Case 3] Smuggling of goods infringing trademark rights

Customs accused one Japanese national who attempted to smuggle **34 pieces of clothing, etc. infringing trademark rights** by the use of air cargo from China of violating the Customs Act. (Jul. 2024; Nagasaki Customs)

