

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

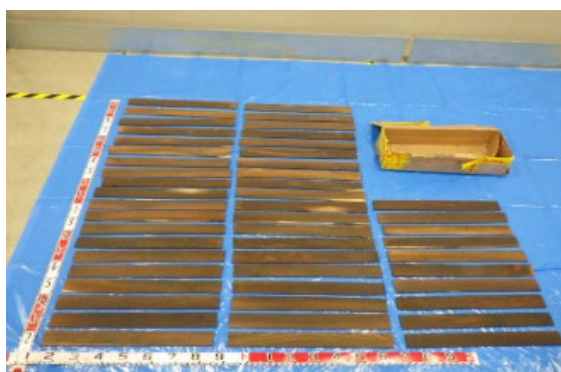
In 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in Washington D.C. for the purpose of regulating international trade of endangered species and protecting them from extinction. This Convention is called the Washington Convention. The Convention 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.

During the one-year period from January to December of 2024, Customs made accusations in two cases of smuggling CITES-listed species, such as wood belonging to the *Dalbergia* species.

< Major smuggling case involving CITES-listed species >

[Case] Smuggling of wood

Customs accused one corporation and one Japanese national that attempted to smuggle one plate of wood belonging to the *Dalbergia* species by the use of air cargo from Paraguay of violating the Customs Act. (Jun. 2024; Osaka Customs)



2. Illicit Export Cases

There are specific cargo items whose export requires permission or approval under laws and regulations other than customs-related ones. The effectiveness of regulations under these laws and regulations is 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 in five cases of illicit export, such as that of personal watercraft, etc., during the one-year period from January to December of 2024.

< Major illicit export cases >

[Case 1] Illicit export of personal watercraft, etc. *Accusation of the first case of illicit roundabout export to Russia after the imposition of economic sanctions on Russia

Customs accused one corporation and one Russian national that exported four units of personal watercraft, etc. illicitly to Russia by the use of sea cargo of violating the Customs Act. (Jul. 2024; Osaka Customs)

[Case 2] Illicit export of stolen cars

Customs accused one Australian national who attempted to export two stolen cars illicitly to the UAE by the use of sea cargo of violating the Customs Act. (Dec. 2024; 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 2024, Customs made accusations in a case of counterfeit securities.

< Smuggling of counterfeit securities >

[Case] Smuggling of counterfeit securities

Customs accused one Chinese national who attempted to smuggle a total of 600 counterfeit securities certificates by air from China of violating the Customs Act. (Oct. 2024; Osaka Customs)

