

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in Advance Filing Rules (AFR)

There are some cases that cargo information with inappropriate descriptions, which may hinder an appropriate risk analysis by Japan Customs, is registered under the Advance Filing Rules (AFR) on Maritime Container Cargo Information which have been implemented since 1 March 2014. Those who are responsible for the filing should be aware of the following.

- Any filers (Shipping companies/NVOCCs) are required to file appropriate and detailed descriptions in order for Japan Customs to conduct an appropriate risk analysis of the filed cargo information.
- Shipping companies and NVOCCs are required to file appropriate cargo descriptions collaborately, providing necessary information (Vessel Information, Master B/L Number, presence or absence of House B/L, etc.) each other to make sure there is no discrepancy between their filings.

Japan Customs may send an advance notice of HLD for requesting appropriate information and investigate on a possible false filing, when it confirms an inappropriate filing.

Please make sure to file the cargo information appropriately.
For your reference, examples of inappropriate filing are provided as follow:

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

1. “Consignor”, “Consignee”, and “Notify Party”

Cases that the cargo information has been filed with inappropriate descriptions in the fields of “Consignor”, “Consignee”, and “Notify Party”. Please make sure to file the cargo information appropriately.

- ① Cases that only signs are entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

Description		Field
.	(1 period only)	“Consignee Name” “Notify Party Name”
..	(2 periods only)	“Notify Party Name”
/	(1 slash only)	“Consignee Name” “Notify Party Name”
//	(2 slashes only)	“Notify Party Name”
-	(1 hyphen only)	“Notify Party Name”
-----	(7 hyphens only)	“Consignor Name”
-----	(9 hyphens only)	“Consignee Name”
**	(2 asterisks only)	“Notify Party Name”
***	(3 asterisks only)	“Notify Party Name”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ② Cases that only a few alphabets are entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

(Updated: June, 2017)

Description		Field
A	(1 alphabet only)	“Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, “Notify Party Name”
D		“Notify Party Name”
O		“Notify Party Name”
Y		“Consignee Name”
DK	(2 alphabets only)	“Consignor Name”,
NA		“Notify Party Name”
JP		“Notify Party Name”
JT		“Consignee Name”
TO		“Consignee Name”
TO:	(combination of alphabets and signs)	“Consignee Name”
TO;		“Consignee Name”

* “TO ORDER”, when necessary, has to be entered in both the “Consignee Name” and “Consignee Address” fields, (not “TO” in the former and “ORDER” in the latter,) together with an appropriate name, address, and telephone number entered in the “Notify Party” fields. In this case the country code (2 digit) of the “Consignee” must be the same as that of the “Notify Party” and as for “Consignee Telephone Number”, the same number as “Notify Party Telephone Number”, or “TO ORDER” must be entered in the “Consignee Telephone Number”.

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ③ Cases that only a country name, a city name, or an address is entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

(Updated: June, 2017)

Description		Field
SHANGHAI	(city name only)	“Consignor Name”
1-2-3 ○○-CHO, ○○-SHI	(address only)	“Consignee Name” “Notify Party Name”

- ④ Cases that only a telephone / FAX number is entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
TEL: ○○-○○○○-○○○○	(telephone number only)	“Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, “Notify Party Name”
FAX: ○○-○○○○-○○○○	(FAX number only)	“Consignee Name” “Notify Party Name”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑤ Cases that only “ATTN” (ATTENTION: NAME) is entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
ATTN: MR. ○○○○	(ATTENTION (NAME) only)	“Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, “Notify Party Name”

- ⑥ Cases that descriptions which mean “the same” are entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
SAME AS BUYER	(descriptions meaning “the same” only)	“Consignee Name”
SAME AS NOTIFY		
AS ABOVE	(descriptions meaning “the same” only)	“Notify Party Name”
AS SAME CONSIGNEE		
DITTO		
SAME AS ABOVE		
SAME AS CONSIGNEE		
SAME AS NOTIFY		
THE SAME AS ABOVE		
THE SAME AS CONSIGNEE		

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑦ Cases that descriptions using “C/O (CARE OF)” are entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

Instead of entering “COMPANY A CARE OF (C/O) COMPANY B”, please put “COMPANY A” without using “CARE OF (C/O)”.

(Added: October, 2014)

	Description	Field
C/O ○○ COMPANY	(no description of an appropriate name, which should come before “C/O”)	“Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, “Notify Party Name”

- ⑧ Cases that descriptions using “O/B (ON BEHALF OF)” are entered in the field of “Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, and “Notify Party Name”

Instead of entering “COMPANY A ON BEHALF OF (O/B) COMPANY B”, please put “COMPANY B” without using “ON BEHALF OF (O/B)”.

(Added: October, 2014)

	Description	Field
○○ COMPANY ON BEHALF OF	(no description of an appropriate name, which should come after “On Behalf of”)	“Consignor Name”, “Consignee Name”, “Notify Party Name”
○○ COMPANY O/B	(no description of an appropriate name, which should come after “O/B”)	“Consignor Name”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑨ Cases that only signs are entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Updated: June, 2017)

Description	Field
.	(1 period only, several consecutive periods) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
.	(period and blank are repeated several times) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
,	(1 comma only or comma and blank are repeated several times) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
, , ,	
* * * *	(asterisk and blank are repeated several times) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
- - -	(1 hyphen only or repeated hyphens) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
,	(1 apostrophe only) “Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑩ Cases that only numbers or abbreviations are entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Updated: June, 2017)

Description		Field
1	(one number only)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
N/A	(abbreviation meaning “unknown”)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
N/M		

- ⑪ Cases that only a company name is entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
○○ COMPANY	(company name only)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑫ Cases that only a telephone / FAX number is entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

NB. Address and telephone number have been possible to be entered together in the Address field: “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address” and “Notify Party Address”. However, address must be entered in the address field and telephone number must be entered in the telephone number field separately after the upgrade of NACCS in October 2017.

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
TEL: ○○-○○○○-○○○○	(telephone number only)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
FAX: ○○-○○○○-○○○○	(FAX number only)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”

- ⑬ Cases that only “ATTN” (ATTENTION: NAME) is entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
ATTN: MR. ○○○○	(ATTENTION (NAME) only)	“Consignor Address” “Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑭ Cases that descriptions meaning “the same” or using “as per attached” are entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
AS PER ATTACHED RIDER	(descriptions like “as per attached”)	“Consignor Address”
DITTO	(descriptions meaning “the same”)	“Notify Party Address”
SAME AS ABOVE	(descriptions meaning “the same”)	“Notify Party Address”
SAME AS CONSIGNEE	(descriptions meaning “the same”)	“Notify Party Address”
SAME AS CONSIGNEE'S ADDRESS	(descriptions meaning “the same”)	“Notify Party Address”
SAME AS NOTIFY PARTY	(descriptions meaning “the same”)	“Consignee Address”

- ⑮ Cases that only a country name is entered in the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address”, and “Notify Party Address”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
JAPAN	(“JAPAN” only)	“Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
KOREA	(“KOREA” only)	“Consignor Address”
CHINA	(“CHINA” only)	“Consignor Address”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑩ Cases that the field of “Consignor Address”, “Consignee Address” and “Notify Party Address” are only filled with a city name.

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
SEOUL	(only city name)	“Consignor Address”
SHANGHAI		
TOKYO	(only city name)	“Consignee Address” “Notify Party Address”
OSAKA		

- ⑪ Cases that only signs are entered in the field of “Consignor Telephone Number”, “Consignee Telephone Number”, and “Notify Party Telephone Number”

(Added: October, 2014)

Description		Field
. ..	(one or more periods only)	“Consignor Telephone Number” “Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”
?	(one question mark only)	“Consignor Telephone Number” “Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”
-	(one hyphen only)	“Consignor Telephone Number” “Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑱ Cases that only one or two numbers are entered in the field of “Consignor Telephone Number”, “Consignee Telephone Number”, and “Notify Party Telephone Number”

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
0	(one number only)	“Consignor Telephone Number”
1		“Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”
00	(two numbers only)	“Consignor Telephone Number”
81		“Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”

- ⑲ Cases that a complete telephone number is not entered in the field of “Consignor Telephone Number”, “Consignee Telephone Number”, and “Notify Party Telephone Number”, due to an unnecessary input of a country code, delimiter, etc.

NB. Enter a telephone number from a long distance code in the country (no country code for an international call is required). Enter numbers only. Do not enter any space and/nor delimiter.

(Added: June, 2015)

Description	Correct Telephone Number	Field
+81-(0)3-1234-	0312345678	“Consignor Telephone Number” “Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

- ⑳ Cases that only a country name is entered in the field of “Consignee Telephone Number” and “Notify Party Telephone Number”.

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
JAPAN	(country name only)	“Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”

- ㉑ Cases that a postal code is entered in the field of “Consignee Telephone Number” and “Notify Party Telephone Number”.

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
123-0001	(entry of postal code by mistake)	“Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”

- ㉒ Cases that abbreviations are entered in the field of “Consignor Telephone Number”, “Consignee Telephone Number” and “Notify Party Telephone Number”.

(Added: June, 2017)

Description		Field
N/A	(abbreviation meaning “unknown”)	“Consignor Telephone Number” “Consignee Telephone Number” “Notify Party Telephone Number”
NA		
NIL		

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

2. Container Number

Cases that only a few numbers and alphabets are entered as the Container Number.

In some cases, different Container Numbers were filed between Master B/L and House B/L. Filers are kindly requested to share information fully with the shipping company / NVOCC and to file cargo information appropriately.

(Updated: June, 2017)

Description	
.	(1 period only)
0 1	(1 number only)
A B D K X	(1 alphabet only)
11	(2 numbers only)
XX NO WH NC	(2 alphabets only)
555 123 456	(3 numbers only)
AAA TBA WHL	(3 alphabets only)
0000 1111 4545	(4 numbers only)
AAAA ZZZZ NSTU	(4 alphabets only)
NA	(abbreviations for unknown)
NO1	Others

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

3. Vessel Code

Cases that inappropriate descriptions are entered in the field of “Vessel Code”.

Due to the discrepancy of the Vessel Code filed by a shipping company and by an NVOCC, filers may receive discrepancy information.

Please pay attention to the following points.

- Please put the Call Sign instead of the IMO number or Vessel Name in the Vessel Code field.

For your reference, you can find the Vessel Code registered in NACCS at:

<https://bbs.naccscenter.com/naccs/dfw/web/afr/code.html>

- When a Vessel Code is not registered in NACCS, it is necessary to put “Laden Vessel Name” and “Nationality Code of Vessel” in addition to the Vessel Code. In this case, please file the correct Vessel Code instead of “ZZZZZ” in the Vessel Code field.

(Updated: October, 2014)

Description	
(ex.) 1234567	IMO number (7 digits)
0 1 2 6 S V X	(1 alphabet or 1 number only)
11 35 56 CN FM JP PA PP XX 1C 1E 2K 2T 2H 2K 2T 2V 2X 3A 3B 3E 3F	(2 alphabets or 2 numbers or combination of 1 alphabet and 1 number)
JKB QZB	(3 alphabets)
FAOMOSA □ C 3FTA... V. 004N	Including blank or period
NA NM N/M UNKNOWN	(abbreviations meaning unknown)
XXXXXX ZZZZZ ZZZZZZZ	(repeating X or Z several times)
(ex.) ZEIKANMARU	(Laden Vessel Name)

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

4. Port of Loading Code

Cases that a “ZZZ” is entered after the 2 digit country code, while the correct Code is officially registered in NACCS. Due to the discrepancy of the Port of Loading Code filed by a shipping company and by an NVOCC, filers may receive discrepancy information.

Please pay attention to the following point.

- Regarding the Port of Loading Code (*1), please input correctly the UN LOCODE (5 digits) (*2) of the port where the cargo is loaded into the vessel, which intends to enter into Japan directly.

(*1) When filing the information of transshipment cargoes, the first port (in most cases, the exporting port) from which the cargo left is considered to be the “Port of Origin”, and the transshipment port the “Port of Loading”.

(*2) For your reference, you can find the Port of Loading Code registered in NACCS at:

<https://bbs.naccscenter.com/naccs/dfw/web/afr/code.html>

(Added: October, 2014)

Port of Loading	Description	Correct Port of Loading Code
TIANJINXINGANG	CNZZZ	CNTXG
CHIWAN	CNZZZ	CNCWN
SHEKOU	CNZZZ	CNSHK
SHENZHEN	CNZZZ	CNSZX
NINGBO	CNZZZ	CNNGB
KEELUNG	TWZZZ	TWKEL
LAEM CHABANG	THZZZ	THLCH
PORT KELANG	MYZZZ	MYPKG

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

Moreover, there are cases that an incorrect port of loading code is entered since the port is located close to the actual loading port. For example, TIANJIN (CNTSN) is entered mistakenly instead of TIANJINXINGANG (CNTXG).

Please refer to the following list and put the port of loading code correctly.

Case of inappropriate filing of the port of loading code because of using the port code of the port nearby

Country	Port Name	Code	Nearby Port	Code
China	TIANJINXINGANG	CNTXG	TIANJIN	CNTSN
United States	LOS ANGELES - CA	USLAX	LONG BEACH - CA	USLGB
Vietnam	HO CHI MINH CITY	VNSGN	CAT LAI	VNCLI
Philippine	MANILA	PHMNL	MANILA NORTH HARBOR	PHMNN

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

5. Port of Discharge Code

Cases that the incorrect code of the port is entered since the name of the port is similar to the actual port of discharge, or the port is located close to the actual port of discharge.

Please pay attention to the following point.

- Regarding the Port of Discharge Code (*1), please put correctly the UN LOCODE (5 digits) (*2).

(*1) When the port of discharge is different from the importing port, please enter the port of discharge code. (For example, when the cargo is discharged from a foreign trading vessel at Tokyo port (JPTYO) and the cargo is carried to Ogasawara port (JPOGA) for importation by a domestic vessel, the filer should enter “JPTYO”.

(*2) For your reference, you can find the Port of Discharge Code registered in NACCS at:
<http://www.naccscenter.com/afr/code.html>

(Updated : June, 2015)

Mistakes of the port of discharge code because of similar port names

Port Name (Location)	Code	Similar Port Name (Location)	Code
SENDAISHIOGAMA (MIYAGI)	JPSGM	SENDAI (KAGOSHIMA)	JPSEN
HAKATA (FUKUOKA)	JPHKT	HAKATA (EHIME)	JPHKS
SHIMIZU (SHIZUOKA)	JPSMZ	SHIMIZU (KOCHI)	JPTSZ
NAGOYA (AICHI)	JPNGO	NAGOYA (OITA)	JPNGY
SAKAI (OSAKA)	JPSAK	SAKAI (TOTTORI/SHIMANE)	JPSMN
NIIGATA(HIGASHI) (NIIGATA)	JPNIH	NIIGATA(NISHI) (NIIGATA)	JPNIN

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

Mistakes of the port of discharge code because of similar codes

Port Name	Correct Code	Port Name	Similar Code
KEIHIN (YOKOHAMA)	JPYOK	TOKACHI	JPTOK

Port codes for domestic vessel

There are codes which are not available because they are inland ports. Please refer to the following list and file the appropriate code by sharing information between the shipping company and the NVOCC.

Major instances of the unavailable codes

Correct Port	Correct Code	Port for domestic vessel	Port code for domestic vessel
ISHIKARIWAN	JPISW	ISHIKARIWANSHINKO	JPISS
MIKAWA	JPMKW	TOYOHASHI	JPTHS
MISHIMA-KAWANOE	JPMKX	IYOMISHIMA	JPIYM
FUSHIKI	JPFSK	TOYAMASHINKO	JPTOS

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

6 . Port of Loading Suffix

Cases that the number “1” - “9” is entered in the Port of Loading Suffix even though the vessel did not enter into the same port more than one time in one voyage.

Due to the discrepancy of the Port of Loading Suffix filed by a shipping company and by an NVOCC, filers may receive discrepancy information.

Please pay attention to following points.

- At the second entry to the same port in one voyage, enter “1”. And at the third entry, put “2”.
- Be careful not to enter a Branch Number which does not match the number of port calls.

7 . Port of Discharge Suffix

Cases that the number “1” - “9” is entered in the Port of Discharge Suffix even though the vessel did not enter into the same port more than one time in one voyage.

Please pay attention to following points.

- At the second entry to the same port in one voyage, put “1”. And at the third entry, put “2”.
- Be careful not to enter a Branch Number which does not match the number of port calls.

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

8. Description of Goods

Cases that inappropriate descriptions are entered in the field of “Goods Description”.

Please pay attention to following points.

- Concrete and detailed description (general terms of the goods or trade names of the merchandise) is needed to easily identify the contents of the cargo. In addition, when several goods are loaded in a container, not only the description of the main goods, but also of the other goods need to be filed in the “Description of Goods” field within 350 digits to a maximum extent possible.

(Updated: October, 2014)

Description	
A S V BO CN CT FM LG PP PU RC XX BAG FAN PAD	(1 or 2 or 3 alphabets only)
「HOUSEHOLD GOODS」、 「HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS」、 「HOUSEHOLD PLASTIC GOODS」	vague description of goods
「AS PER ATTACHED」、 「AS PER ATTACHED SHEET」、 「AS PER ATTACHED LIST」、 「DETAILS AS PER ATTACHED LIST」	phrases meaning reference or appendix
NA N/A NM N/M	(abbreviations for unknown)
XXXXXX	repeated X
「HOME APPLIANCES」、 「SPARE PARTS」、 「PLASTIC PARTS」、 「CHEMICAL」、 「LEATHER」、 「FOOD」、 「FOOD ITEMS」、 「OTHER MACHINES」、 「PLASTICS」、 「PLASTICS ARTICLES」、 「STC 10 PALLETS」、 「FAK(FREIGHT ALL KINDS)」、 「GENERAL CARGOES」	descriptions that are difficult to identify the contents of the cargo

※When it is difficult to identify the contents of the cargo due to the vague description of goods as appeared on the website below, such filing will not be accepted. (Error code 「S0067」 will be notified.)

(*)Unacceptable Items : <http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/advance5/annex09.pdf>

Cases of inappropriate filing of cargo information in AFR

9. Harmonized System Code (HS Code)

Cases that codes of Chapter 98 of HS, which is not used worldwide, were entered. Please pay attention to following points.

- Please put the 6-digit HS code (Chapter 1 - 97, which are commonly used around the world) of the main goods. The 6-digit HS code is revised by the revision of HS Convention and the next revision is to take place on 1st June 2020. Please also consult the website of World Customs Organization (WCO) which manages the convention.
- Be careful not to use codes of Chapter 98 for “household goods”, since there is no HS code for “household goods” in Japan.

(Updated: October, 2014)

Description	
980000 980100 980300 980400 980500 980600 981300 981700 981800	Harmonized System Code Chapter 98 (6-digit)