

JAPAN

1. Passengers. See the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide available at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>. From the left column select Pacific, South Asia, and Indian Ocean and then Japan.
2. Cargo. The following paragraphs describe the customs clearance and inspection process for government and personal property shipped into Japan. The SOFA between the US and the Government of Japan (GOJ) establishes the guidelines by which government cargo and personal property can be shipped into Japan. Generally, property bound for the US Armed Forces in Japan enters duty-free.
 - a. United States Forces-Japan (USFJ) Regulations, Figure 1. The regulations implement those portions of the SOFA that deal with customs clearance of, access to, use, and resale of duty-free goods.
 - b. Government Property. The US-GOJ SOFA Article XI states “all materials, supplies, and equipment imported by the United States Armed Forces, for official use of the United States Armed Forces or for use of the member/employee of the United States Armed Forces, will be free from customs duties and other such charges. Appropriate certification will be made that such materials, supplies, and equipment are being imported to be used exclusively by the United States Armed Forces or ultimately to be incorporated into articles or facilities used by such forces.”
 - c. Personal Property. The US-GOJ SOFA Article XI also allows military personnel, civilian employees of the Armed Forces, invited contractors, technical representatives, and their families assigned to USFJ to ship reasonable quantities of personal property into Japan without paying duty or customs taxes for a period of six months after arrival. Personal property includes any item shipped in HHG, UB, or hand carried to the port of entry (normally Narita, Kansai, Haneda, Fukuoka, or Naha International Airports or Misawa, Yokota, and Kadena ABs and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni). USFJ personnel governed by the SOFA are not authorized to:
 - (1) Use their duty-free privileges to import goods into or from Japan for the purpose of realizing personal gain or profit, or for providing a gain or profit for any other individual.
 - (2) Use their duty-free privileges to import property when the property is not intended for the personal use of the individual or the individual’s SOFA family member. Importing commercial goods for resale or gifts is prohibited.
 - (3) Deliberately importing goods into Japan in quantities exceeding personal needs or the needs of their bona fide family member.
 - (4) Personal property shipments to Japan using a reengineering initiative must be coordinated with USFJ. Rationale is that local TOs and Military Common User Port Operators must still process proper documentation to clear shipments through GOJ customs. A GBL will still be used to move personal property to Japan. Procedures have not been coordinated with GOJ to use commercial documentation to customs clear shipments. The USG must abide by the SOFA.
 - (a) Customs clearance of personal property is subject to the six-month rule. If a member/employee ships property into Japan via commercial means after six months, the SOFA member/employee is responsible for accomplishing the proper paperwork with GOJ Customs Officials. Personnel who ship property into Japan after six months must pay the customs duties, ship or hand-carry the items back out

of Japan, or abandon them. When the member/employee makes a permanent change of station (PCS) move from Japan, there will be no customs duties upon export of these goods from Japan.

- (b) Exceptions to the six-month rule. Items shipped into Japan through the Air Postal Operations (APO) are not subject to the six-month rule. Import restrictions on types of items and the prohibition on items in excess of personal need apply. Vehicles and vehicle parts are not subject to the six-month rule; however vehicles are subject to import restrictions.
- d. Import Restrictions. Under GOJ law and USFJ directives, the following are restricted or prohibited from importation into Japan. The list is not all encompassing and will only be used as a guide.
 - (1) Fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - (2) Plants, seeds, bulbs, and straw goods.
 - (3) Animal products such as unprocessed meats.
 - (4) Endangered species or products made from endangered species.
 - (5) Counterfeit, altered or imitation coins, paper money, bank notes, or securities.
 - (6) Any books, pamphlets, paper, writings, advertisements, circulars, prints, pictures, drawings, motion picture films, phonograph or tape or wire recording, containing any matter advocating or urging treason or insurrection against the GOJ or the US.
 - (7) Obscene books, drawings, carvings, films, videos, and other articles of a pornographic nature.
 - (8) Any narcotic drug or utensil used therefore. Includes marijuana, amphetamines, and hallucinogenic drugs to include instruments for their administration.
 - (9) Ammunition, gunpowder, and explosives.
 - (10) Importation of items in excess of personal needs.
- e. Firearms/Weapons Restrictions. GOJ Custom's officials strictly control the importation of firearms/weapons of all types. USFJ Custom's officials suggest personnel coming for assignment in Japan leave all types of privately owned firearms/weapons in the US. However, if a member/employee desires to ship authorized firearm(s), they will be shipped as outlined in the Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide (PPCIG) (available at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>)
 - (1) Privately owned firearms may not be hand carried to Japan.
 - (2) USFJ members/employees are not authorized to import or possess handguns.
 - (3) Personnel will not ship any firearm or ammunition in HHG, or accompanied or UB.
 - (4) Firearms that are authorized by the PPCIG must be mailed by the member/employee through the US Postal System, consigned to the CDR, unit of assignment, of the gaining command and marked for the member/employee.
 - (5) Component and installation commanders are authorized to impose more stringent requirements; therefore, it is important to follow the instructions in the PPCIG. Also, the member/employee will communicate with his/her gaining unit and/or sponsor.
 - (6) Firearms that are authorized and mailed must be registered with the local Provost Marshal or Security Forces Squadron immediately upon the weapon arriving in Japan.

Personnel must have a bill of sale or a registration from the last duty assignment for the weapon to complete the registration process.

- (7) Other weapons defined as dangerous instruments are instruments manufactured for or designed to inflict physical harm to other persons. Installation CDRs will determine possession, transfer, and storage requirements for dangerous instruments through installation regulations/instructions. Prior to shipping the below items, the member/employee will contact his/her gaining unit or sponsor. Dangerous instruments may include, but, are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Swords, stiletos, sabers, ice pick, daggers, machetes, spears, or other similar instruments.
 - (b) Spring release, switchblade, "bolo", and "butterfly" knives, metal ("Brass") knuckles.
 - (c) Trench knives or bayonets.
 - (d) Blackjacks or objects that may be used as clubs that inflict bodily harm.
 - (e) Explosives of any type.
 - (f) Straight razors, razor blades, or any weapon made from either device.
 - (g) Any other objects determined by Service components.
 - (h) Official military ceremonial swords may be shipped in member/employee HHG, but must be clearly marked on the carrier's inventory as "Official Military Ceremonial Sword."
- f. Pets. The GOJ is enforcing a quarantine program for import and export of pets. Procedures must be strictly followed. These procedures are listed in the PPCIG and the Japan District Veterinary Command (JDVC) website (www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.htm). If the pet is traveling via commercial air, the GOJ requires advance notification as soon as transportation is scheduled. GOJ will return a notification approval; it must be used when checking the animal in with the airline. A quarantine period may apply after the animal arrives in Japan. Microchipping, rabies vaccinations, a blood test, a health certificate, and other documents are required. Personnel who choose to bring pets may bring them into Japan via commercial air or AMC's Patriot Express flights. The only authorized AMC military ports for importing/exporting pets are Yokota, Kadena, and Misawa AB (Misawa export only). Whether arriving at a commercial or AMC port, MDJ Form 270, Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate, Figure 3, is required. An MDJ Form 270 can be downloaded from the JDVC website. If a pet is shipped separately as freight, it will be customs-cleared using USFJ Form 380EJ, Customs Free Import or Export of Cargo or Customs Declaration of Personal Property. This form is available at the Customs check point at the point of entry or at the Camp Zama Veterinary Treatment Facility. The member/employee may also contact a local veterinarian about detailed medical requirements for shipment of pets into Japan. It is extremely important to consult the PPCIG and/or JDVC website as soon as possible after receiving an assignment to Japan.
- g. Contractors. Article XIV, SOFA, provides that US contractors present in Japan solely for the purpose of executing contracts with the US Armed Forces may be designated US Official Contractors if they qualify under certain specified criteria. With the influx in contracting initiatives, some contractor cargo and/or personal effects may not be entitled to customs free import and export privileges. It is important to obtain a copy of the contract to determine entitlements or contact the local contracting office.

- h. Security/Enforcement. In order to prevent offenses against laws and regulations administered by the Customs authorities of the GOJ, the Japanese authorities and the US Armed Forces will assist each other in the conduct of inquiries and the collection of evidence. Each agency, unit, and member/employee involved with importing/exporting cargo, personal effects, and the movement of passengers has an inherent responsibility to ensure compliance with directives and the SOFA. When there are violations, proper reporting must be accomplished, thereby preserving the privileges outlined in the SOFA. Use Figure 2 as a guide for selecting organizations to notify.
- i. Air Shipments.
 - (1) MILAIR. Cargo arriving in Japan by AMC is cleared by using the aircraft cargo manifest and/or DOD shipping documents attached to a USFJ Form 380EJ. The documents are presented to GOJ Customs Officials. Customs clearance is done immediately and property is released to the local agent for pick up. After the local agent picks up HHG or UB, they notify the TO for delivery instructions.
 - (2) Commercial Air Shipments Door-To-Door. Cargo shipments moving by commercial air express and freight forwarder carriers (door-to-door) are cleared at Narita or Kansai International Airports for both mainland Japan and Okinawa. The express carrier receives advance electronic notification alerting them of incoming shipments. The express carrier notifies the destination TO of shipping data (CBL, AWB, and/or invoice) by FAX. The TO will determine if the shipments are official DOD cargo. After the TO verifies shipments are official cargo, they issue a USFJ Form 380EJ, or authorize the express air carrier by FAX to create a partially completed USFJ Form 380EJ. Contract express air carriers have been provided pre-signed and serial numbered USFJ Forms 380EJ by TOs. After customs clearance actions are completed, carriers must return a copy of the original USFJ Form 380EJ to the TO. After clearance, the express air carrier will make delivery to the final destination.
 - (3) UB Moving by Commercial Air (Code 8). Processing of USFJ Form 380EJ is the same as HHG and UB by commercial surface not under the Universal Service Contract (USC). However, the exception is that the local agent clears the UB at the International Airport. Notification and delivery procedures are the same as HHG.
- 3. Ocean Vessel Shipments.
 - a. DOD Shipments on Commercial Contracted Carriers or MSC Vessels. DOD cargo, personal property, and POVs shipped on commercial carriers under the USC on commercial ocean bills of lading or via MSC vessels require additional certification by the Military Common User Port Operators (MCUPOs) and/or other USFJ representative. The MCUPOs are the 836th and 835th Transportation Battalions (Terminals) at Yokohama and Naha ports respectively. Seven to 14 days before the vessel arrives; the carrier submits a load list/manifest by EDI and hard copy to SDDC. The MCUPO pulls the military manifest from the WPS, verifies and compares it with the commercial carrier's manifest for accuracy, and ensures all cargo shipped has been documented. A USFJ Form 380EJ is prepared and a copy of the WPS manifest, vessel papers, and/or DOD shipping documents are attached to it and forwarded to GOJ customs for clearance action. After GOJ clearance action is complete, the container/cargo is delivered to the consignee.
 - b. Military cargo shipped on commercial vessels by CBL arriving Yokohama, Kobe, Hakata, or water ports used for supporting military exercises requires a USFJ Form 380EJ. The vessel representative or vessel's agent submits an arrival notice, copy of the CBL, and other DOD cargo documentation to the MCUPO. The MCUPO prepares and certifies/authenticates the

USFJ Form 380EJ and presents to the GOJ for customs clearance action. At Naha, the carrier agent provides a copy of the arrival notice to the consignee identified on the arrival notice. The consignee coordinates with their TO who prepares and certifies/authenticates USFJ Form 380EJ and presents to the GOJ for customs clearance action. The 835th MCUPO provides assistance when requested by the consignee.

- c. HHG and UB moving under the USC are cleared as government property as outlined in Paragraphs 3.a. and b. above.
 - d. HHG and UB Commercial Surface not under the USC. The carrier's local agent delivers inventories and customs clearance documents (USFJ Form 380EJ) to the MCUPO. A MCUPO official reviews the documentation and certifies/authenticates the USFJ Form 380EJ. After signature, the documents are returned to the local agent who files them with GOJ Customs to clear property. GOJ Customs clears shipments by ocean container loads (e.g., APL, SEALAND) that normally take seven-10 days. After the property clears customs, the local agent picks up the container from the port and unstuffs the container at their warehouse. After unstuffing, the local agent contacts the TO for delivery instructions. Exception: At Naha (Okinawa), the carrier's local agent will notify the local receiving agent by providing a copy of the arrival notice. The local receiving agent will prepare USFJ Form 380EJ and clear customs.
 - e. HHG (Code T) and UB (Code J) moving by military air. The cargo manifest is attached to a USFJ Form 380EJ and presented to GOJ Customs Officials. Customs clearance is done immediately and property is released to the local agent for pick up. After the local agent picks up HHG or U/B, he/she notifies the TO and requests delivery instructions.
 - f. POVs. POVs shipped to Japan as a part of a PCS move are customs cleared by the MCUPOs. The MCUPO prepares, certifies/authenticates, and submits the USFJ Form 380EJ to GOJ Customs Officials. Shipping POVs to Japan is a complicated process because of the DOD embargo and waiver requirements. It is important the PPCIG be referred to for specific guidance.
4. [Overland Carrier Shipments](#). Customs processes are not required for this mode of shipment in Japan.
 5. [Personal Property](#). See the PPCIG at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>. Select Query CG tab, select County Instructions tab, at the Country drop down box under Custom Selection, select Japan, submit. Click on the detail icon on the upper right hand side to review shipping requirements.

USFJ Instruction 31-207, Weapons and Firearms in Japan

Policy Letter 4-3, Entry and Exit of Individuals, Cargo, Aircraft, and Surface Vessels.

Figure 1. USFJ Regulations (Japan)

Organization	Location	Phone Numbers	Primary Responsibility
HQ US Forces Japan	Yokota AB	DSN 225-4714 FAX 225-6321	Office of Primary Responsibility Customs Japan
TO	Camp Butler Okinawa	DSN 645-9248 FAX 645-1155	Customs clears commercial air cargo for Okinawa (USMC)
TO	MCAS Iwakuni	DSN 253-4076 FAX 253-6455	Customs clears commercial air cargo for Iwakuni (USMC)
TO	Kadena AB	DSN 634-2430 FAX 634-5181	Customs clears commercial air cargo for Okinawa (USAF)
TO	Yokota AB	DSN 225-9154 FAX 225-5807	Customs clears commercial air cargo for mainland Japan and Okinawa (USAF)
TO	Yokosuka	DSN 243-8731 FAX 243-6998	Customs clears commercial air and surface cargo Japan (at US Navy Ports)
TO	Yokohama Seaport	DSN 269-6334 FAX 269-6679	Customs clears Code 8 UB for all services arriving at Narita and all cargo arriving at Kansai (USA)
TO	Camp Zama	DSN 263-8980 FAX 263-8984	Customs clears commercial air cargo for Japan and Okinawa except for Code 8 UB arriving at Narita and cargo arriving at Kansai (USA)
TO	Torii Station Okinawa	DSN 644-4274 FAX 644-4375	Customs clears commercial air cargo for Okinawa (USA)
TO	DDYJ Det Okinawa	DSN: 637-2104 FAX 637-2107	Customs clears commercial air cargo consigned to the Okinawa Det.
835th Transportation Battalion	Okinawa Seaport	DSN 648-7721 FAX 648-7635	Customs clears surface cargo for Okinawa (USA)
836th Transportation Battalion	Yokohama North Dock	DSN 269-6513 FAX 269-6860	Customs clears surface cargo for mainland Japan (USA)
730 Air Mobility Squadron.	Yokota AB	DSN 225-9616 FAX 225-6091	Customs clears AMC cargo for mainland Japan
733 Air Mobility Squadron.	Kadena AB	DSN 634-3659 FAX 634-2279	Customs clears AMC cargo for Okinawa
TO (PPSO)	FISC Det Sasebo	DSN 252-3418 FAX 252-3704	Customs clears commercial air and surface cargo for Sasebo arriving at Southern terminals/ports

Figure 2. POCs in Japan

PET QUARANTINE AND EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE						
(See DD Form 2005 for Privacy Act Statement)						
PART I - CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE						
<p>Japanese law requires pets entering Japan to be quarantined for a period of 14-180 days. Pets belonging to U.S. Forces personnel may be placed in a 14-day "Working Quarantine" in the custody of their owner, when all paper work has been properly completed prior to arrival. You must 1) report to the U.S. Forces veterinary clinic within 72 hours, or the first clinic day following the arrival of the animal to Japan, 2) present your animal to the U.S. Forces veterinary clinic within 72 hours of completion of the quarantine requirement. Failure to do so is a serious violation of the quarantine law and may result in a fine up to 50,000 yen per animal concerned. (USFJ PL 4-3)</p> <p>In Accordance with the above, I request the pet(s) described below be placed in quarantine in my custody for 14 days. I will present my pet(s) on or after the date indicated to the nearest U.S. Forces veterinary clinic. I agree to immediately notify the nearest U. S. veterinary clinic, if my pet(s) should die or become ill. I fully understand and will comply with above regulations, and understand that failure to do so will result in forwarding a copy of this report through command channels.</p>						
Name and grade of sponsor					Sponsor's SSN	
Name and grade of authorized representative (if applicable)				Signature of owner or authorized representative		
Complete local military address of owner				Quarters #		
				Telephone #		
Unit				Duty #		
PART II - DESCRIPTION OF PET(S)						
Control #	Pet Name	Sex	Age	Color	Species	Breed
(1)		M F				
(2)		M F				
(3)		M F				
Date and Place of Rabies Vaccination						
(1)	(2)	(3)				
Arrival date of pet(s)		Country of origin		Name of airline & flight #		
PART III - INITIAL QUARANTINE EXAMINATION						
<p>I certify that the pet(s) described above was examined by me and found to be free from symptoms of communicable diseases. In accordance with current regulations, This pet(s) is placed in custody of the owner for a period of _____ days.</p> <p>Remarks: You must present your pet(s) to the U.S. Forces veterinary clinic within 72 hours, or the first normal clinic day following the completion of the quarantine period.</p>						
Final quarantine date:				Final quarantine place:		
Typed name and position of animal quarantine officer				Signature		
PART IV - FINAL QUARANTINE EXAMINATION						
<p>I certify that the pet(s) described above was examined by me and found to be free from symptoms of communicable diseases. In accordance with current regulation, this pet(s) is released from quarantine</p> <p>Remarks: _____ Actual Release Date: _____</p>						
Typed name and grade of veterinarian				Signature		

Figure 3. MDJ Form 270, Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate