

To whom it may concern;

27 June, 2001 (revised)

Importing or Bringing Medication into Japan for Personal Use

(new address

as of 2004)

Section of Medicinal Inspection and Guidance,
Kantou-shinetsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Saitama-shintoshin-Godochosha 1, 7th Floor, 1-1 Shintoshin,
Chuo-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture JAPAN 330-9713
Tel: +81-48-740-0800 Fax: +81-48-601-1336

§ 1. In the case of quarantined medications for personal use at customs, you must get an import certification so-called 'Yakkan-Syoumei' from our office. The application should be satisfied with several guidelines. The application forms attach below.

The application of import certification is requiring the following documents;

1. Application Form (Import Report of Medication) ... **2 copies with original signatures**
2. Declaration ... **1 copy with signature**
3. Explanation of the Products
4. Prescription for Your Medication

【In the case of importing】(With the above 1 to 4 documents)

5. Copy of Notice Card from the Japanese Customs
6. Copy of Invoice
7. Copy of Air Way Bill (B/L)

[If you don't have 6. or 7., you have to have an inspection report on contents of imported goods so-called 'Horyu-Kokusai-Youbinbutsu-Jizen-Naiyo-Tenken-Negai (保留国際郵便物事前内容点検願)' from a Customs where your medications were quarantined.]

【In the case of bringing】(With the above 1 to 4 documents)

8. Document Indicating Arrival Date (ex. Copy of Airline Ticket or Flight Itinerary)
9. The Notice from the Japanese Customs (If you get this, you must submit to our office)

You can get your medication due to submit the certification to the customs officer who quarantined your medication. Imported or brought medication into Japan for personal use must not be sold or given to others.

§ 2. An individual can import the following restricted quantities of medication without special procedures. You can't import exceeded quantities, without the above § 1 procedures. Imported or brought medication into Japan for personal use must not be sold or given to others.

1. **Drug or 'Iyakubugaihin' (quasi-drug) :** Up to 2 months' supply
 - Prescription Drug : Up to 1 month' s supply
 - Vitamin : Up to 4 months' supply
 - Drug or Iyakubugaihin' for External Use (excluding prescription drug) : Up to 24 pieces

[Note]

Iyakubugaihin (quasi-drug) :

'Iyakubugaihin' is a product that has restricted purpose of use, has a mild action on the human body, and is not categorized as a medical device.

e.g.)hair tonics, bath preparation, etc.

For external use :

e.g.)ointments, eye drops and etc.

2. **Cosmetic :** Up to 24 pieces per item
3. **Medical Device (for home use only) :** 1 set
e.g.) electric massager

§ 3. An importer of medication (drug, 'quasi-drug (Iyakubugaihin)', cosmetic or medical device) for business purposes needs a License from the designated authority under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law. If you want more information, please contact the pharmaceutical affairs office of the prefectural government in your Japanese office location. (Host Prefecture)

Import Prohibited Drugs

§ 4. Stimulants (Amphetamine and Metamphetamine) are absolutely prohibited. Psychotropic drugs and Narcotics are strictly restricted. If you need further information, please contact following Narcotics Control Department.

§ 5. In accordance with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), import of drugs including the following substances is prohibited. If you need further information, please contact following Import Division.

e.g.) rhinoceros horn, musk, tiger bones and etc.

[Note]

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (known as the "Washington Convention") was adopted in Washington, D.C., in March 1973 and came into effect in July 1975; its aim is to prevent the extinction of rare species of animals and plants.

Further Information

§ 6. Regarding Stimulants, Narcotics, Psychotropic drugs etc., please contact the following office;

Narcotics Control Department, Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare
Phone:+81-3-3719-8111, Fax:+81-3-3719-8116

§ 7. Regarding the CITES, please contact the following office;

Trade Licensing Division, Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation
Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Phone:+81-3-3501-1659

[Reference] <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/import/index.html>