



Defense Personal Property System (DPS) Country Instructions Japan

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Weight Restrictions

1) NAVY PERSONNEL:

- a) Navy Service member assigned to a USMC Command or Unit on Okinawa, Japan (USMC Base Camp Foster/Butler and other USMC bases includes, but not limited to, Camp Courtney, Camp Hansen, Camp Kinser, Camp Lester, and MCAS Futenma):
 - i. Serving an accompanied tour is limited to 25 percent of full Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) Household Goods (HHG) weight allowance or 2,500 pounds, whichever is greater, unless specified on the travel order.
 - ii. Reshipment of HHG is not authorized at the authorized destination unless determined to be in the Government's interest by the responsible service.
 - iii. Serving an unaccompanied tour is authorized 600 pounds of unaccompanied baggage (UB) and no HHG based on the limited size of the BOQ and BEQ and lack of ability to store excess HHG at the PDS.
- b) Navy Service member, whether serving an accompanied or unaccompanied tour, who is assigned to a Non-USMC Command or Unit on Okinawa, Japan is authorized:
 - i. Full JTR HHG weight allowance.
 1. Housing in Japan is smaller than homes in CONUS.
 2. Commercial storage in Japan is almost non-existent and Base Housing Offices will NOT fund overflow items to be sent back for Non-Temporary Storage (NTS).
 - ii. Military and civilian members are recommended to contact their respective Base Housing Office for on-base military housing entitlement.
- c) Contact the new Command, Unit, Sponsor, or Base Housing Office for the size and or square footage of the Government, Privatized, Economy, or Unaccompanied Personnel Housing to determine what items to ship and what items to place in NTS for the duration of tour in Japan.
- d) Government appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, cooking stove, air conditioner, and kerosene heater) are provided by each Base Housing Office; for on-base. Loaner furniture (tables, chairs, chests of drawers, and beds) may also be available upon request while waiting for HHGs to arrive.

Alcoholic Beverages

- 1) Under current US Forces policy, there are no restrictions on importation of alcohol and tobacco products.
- 2) It is not advised to bring alcohol collections into Japan in Household Goods (HHGs) shipments.

Furniture, Oversized

- 1) YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, YOKOHAMA, CFAY SASEBO, NAF ATSUGI, MCAS IWAKUNI:
 - a) Commercial Storage in Japan is almost non-existent.
 - b) Most local economy Japanese-styled homes or apartments cannot accommodate large furniture items. Items may not fit through doorways, staircases, elevators or windows.
 - c) Member/civilian may incur excess cost to dispose of or relocate excess or oversized furniture.
 - i. To avoid unnecessary and expensive commercial storage, large furniture items and major appliances such as a washer, dryer, gas range, freezer, refrigerator, large couches sofas and king size bed sets should be placed in NTS.
 - ii. Major appliances are furnished in both Government Quarters and Off-Base Housing (local economy) upon request from the command-sponsored DoD customer.

Pets/Quarantine

- 1) SHIPPING PETS:
 - a) The shipment of pets as excess baggage accompanying the member in PCS travel may be accomplished by requesting category B travel or travel on Air Mobility Command – Patriot Express (AMC-PE) flights. For more information, visit AMC Travel Website: <http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>
 - b) Advance (90-120 days) reservations are required for pets and should be requested at the same time PCS port call is being requested.
 - c) There is no entitlement for shipment of pets at Government expense. Pet owners are responsible for making all travel arrangements, complying with shipping requirements, and all associated costs.
- 2) JAPANESE REGULATIONS:
 - a) Japanese Animal Quarantine Service Regulations require all animals entering Japan be examined to determine if they are free from communicable diseases.
 - b) Animals found to be free from communicable diseases and meeting entrance requirements may be released to the owner's custody, subject to the restrictions discussed below.

- c) DO NOT HESITATE to contact the installation veterinarians for the latest guidance on bring a pet into Japan.
 - i. <http://www.usarj.army.mil/units/vet/>
 - ii. <http://www.usarj.army.mil/units/vet/import/>
- 3) LENGTH OF QUARANTINE:
 - i. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) quarantine inspectors and US Army Veterinary Command veterinarians will determine the length of each pet's quarantine period when the pet arrives in Japan.
 - ii. The quarantine periods will range up to 180 days.
- 4) MICROCHIP: Each item listed below is important and must be accomplished AS SOON AS THE MILITARY MEMBER IS AWARE OF MOVEMENT TO JAPAN.
 - a) Microchipping: Before completing any of the following requirements, PLEASE MICROCHIP YOUR PET FIRST. Any vaccinations or testing prior to microchipping will be considered invalid.
 - b) All animals must obtain a microchip before arriving in Japan. ISO or ISO-compatible chips that meet the ISO 11784 and 11785 Standard are recommended.
 - c) Home Again and AVID microchips are acceptable.
 - d) The identification number of the microchip must be annotated on the Rabies Certificate, the Health Certificate, and on the rabies serology (FAVN) test results sheet.
- 5) VACCINATIONS:
 - a) SOFA status personnel bringing a dog or cat into Japan should be prepared to present documentary evidence that their pet has had at least two rabies vaccinations since being microchipped.
 - i. The most recent vaccination must have been given not less than 30 days and not later than 12 months prior to arrival.
 - ii. The most recent rabies vaccination form (DD 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate) will be required and requires annotation of the microchip number.
 - iii. Complete information for the past two rabies vaccinations will be annotated on the health certificate (MDJ OP 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate for Import Export for Japan).
 - iv. The first rabies vaccine may be given at the same time as the microchip. The second rabies vaccine booster should be given at least 30 days or more after the first rabies immunization.
 - b) Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test:
 - i. This blood test needs to be performed after the second rabies vaccination and is good for up to 2 years.
 - ii. For PUPPIES and KITTENS (< 12 months): blood should be drawn >30 days after the second rabies vaccination.
 - iii. For ADULT DOGS and CATS (>12 months with a history of rabies vaccinations): blood can be drawn within 2 days or later of the second rabies immunization.

- iv. A FAVN test result which indicates an antibody level greater than or equal to 0.5 IU ml is acceptable.
- v. The microchip number needs to be annotated on the FAVN test result form.
- vi. The FAVN blood test can be ordered through Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory or DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

6) AIR TRANSPORTATION:

- a) Kadena AB, Yokota AB, and Misawa AB currently have capabilities for handling AMC arrivals of dogs and cats so the ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IS NOT NEEDED IF THE ANIMAL ARRIVES AT A MILITARY INSTALLATION.
- b) If the animal is traveling by commercial air, the Government of Japan (GOJ) requires an advance notification of pet movement as soon as transportation is scheduled for SOFA members.
- c) A notification approval will be returned and is used when checking the animal in with the airline.
- d) In order to avoid problems at check-in with the airline, this prior notification approval form is VERY IMPORTANT.
- e) Please annotate in the Remarks box the following statement:
 - i. This pet belongs to a US SOFA sponsored family and will be assigned to (list installation).
- f) The advance notification form is found on the MAFF website, Step 5: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>
- g) The advance notification form is required to be sent by mail or by FAX to the port of entry. Addresses and FAX numbers for the respective port of entry may be found at this website (Narita arrivals in Terminal 1): http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/aqs_contact_list_en.pdf
 - i. All incoming animals must enter Japan through officially designated ports: http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/aqs_contact_list_en.pdf Seaports: Keihin, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Kanmon, and Naha.
 - ii. Airports: New Tokyo (Narita), Tokyo (Haneda), Nagoya, Osaka (Kansai), Fukuoka, Kagoshima, and Naha (Okinawa).
 - iii. Military AMC ports: Kadena AB, Yokota AB, and Misawa AB.

7) HEALTH CERTIFICATE:

- a) An individual health certificate is required for each animal that is moved into or out of Japan.
- b) The military health certificate is valid for 10 days and must be completed within 10 days before arrival.
- c) Please note the traveler will lose one day during travel to Japan from the US.
- d) The MDJ OP Form 2209 (Veterinary Health Certificate for Import Export for Japan) may be used by military veterinarians. The MDJ OP Form 2209 may be found on www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lsd49/Documents/2209.pdf.

8) **USDA CERTIFICATION:**

- a) If a health certificate is issued by a licensed civilian veterinarian, the health certificate and rabies certificate must be certified by a USDA State Veterinarian and bear the USDA raised embossed seal.
- b) These health certificates are valid up to 30 days before arrival.
- c) Health certificates issued by a military veterinary treatment facility using the MDJ OP Form 2209 do not require the USDA certification.
- d) Airlines require a health certificate that is within 10 days of arrival. Therefore if the USDA certified health certificate is not dated within 10 days of arrival, an additional certificate will be required within 10 days of arrival for the airline.
- e) The USDA certified certificate will be used upon arrival for processing the pet at Customs.

9) **AGE REQUIREMENT:**

- a) Japan discourages the importation of dogs and cats under the age of 12 months. These pets rarely meet the vaccination and FAVN test requirements prior to 11 months.
- b) Pets under the age of 11 months can be imported but must start out with a 180 day quarantine period.
 - i. This quarantine period may be reduced if all of the steps above are completed before arrival in Japan.
 - ii. Primary emphasis is placed on microchipping, rabies vaccinations (one at 91 days of age followed by a second one not earlier than 30 days after the first), and the FAVN test (must be drawn not earlier than 30 days after the second rabies vaccination).
- c) For animals over the age of 12 months, with a history of vaccination, the primary difference is the FAVN test may be performed any time after the second rabies vaccination.

10) **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- a) Pet owners must submit Official Travel Orders (2 copies) upon arrival at the Animal Quarantine Service in the airport Customs area to verify SOFA status.
- b) MDJ Form 270 (Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate; 2 copies):
 - i. All SOFA status personnel entering Japan with a pet must complete a MDJ 270.
 - ii. The MDJ 270 allows your pet to be released to you for transportation to your US Military Quarantine Facility.
 - iii. The form may be downloaded from the JDVC website and should be completed prior to arrival in Japan.
- c) You must submit the form to the Animal Quarantine Officer upon arrival, then to your US Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours after entry into Japan to continue and complete the quarantine processes. USFJ Form 380 EJ (Customs Free Import or Export of Cargo or Customs Declaration of Personal Property):

- i. This form is required when your pet(s) enters Japan unaccompanied as cargo or on a different flight as the sponsor.
 - ii. You do not need this form if you are accompanying the animal as baggage.
 - iii. You can only use this form within 6 months of being assigned to Japan. After 6 months, you can still use the form, but you may be required to pay any Customs duties associated with bringing a pet into the country.
 - iv. You may obtain the form by having your sponsor take a copy of your orders to the transportation office at your gaining command. The base transportation officer will sign the appropriate box after verifying your orders.
- d) Pet owners or their authorized representatives should be prepared to provide the following information to the Animal Quarantine Officer:
- i. Military mailing address
 - ii. Duty phone number
 - iii. Command information
- e) NOTE: Placing the above required documents/information in a zip lock plastic bag and taping it securely to the top of the pet's cage seems to work best.
- i. These forms must accompany the animal during transit.
 - ii. Ensure these forms are completely filled out.
 - iii. It is suggested that you carry in your possession the originals of each certificate. When clearing customs, all supporting documentation, including the animal's health record, must be available for referencing in case questions arise concerning the health and or identity of the animal and validity of the records.

11) QUARANTINE PERIOD:

- a) The quarantine period is primarily determined by the date the blood for the FAVN test was collected. This is only valid if the microchip was received prior to the two rabies vaccinations and the rabies immunizations were received prior to the blood being drawn for the FAVN test.
- b) The FAVN test result level must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU ml.
 - i. Equation used: $(180 \text{ days}) - (\# \text{ days since blood drawn for an acceptable FAVN test at the date of arrival}) = \# \text{ of quarantine days assigned.}$
- c) The earlier the pet meets the microchip, two vaccinations, and FAVN test standards, the shorter the assigned quarantine period (up to 180 days).
- d) Those pets arriving with a FAVN test equal to or greater than 180 days and less than 2 years will be released directly into the custody of the owners without a quarantine time period assessed.
- e) When the animal is taken to the Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours after arrival, the MDJ Form 270 will be completed by the Military Veterinarian and the quarantine process is complete.

- f) Quarantine length is also assessed by the sequential order and completion of all previous steps, the accuracy and the completion of all paperwork, pet identification and documentation, including Health Certificates, Rabies Certificates, USDA certification (if required), and Advance Notification Approval.
 - i. Any fault or deviation found in any of these areas will result in an AUTOMATIC 180 DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD.
 - ii. Military Veterinarians may be able to reassess and correct quarantine periods associated with some paperwork mistakes.
 - iii. Home Quarantine:
 - 1. SOFA status personnel are authorized to quarantine their animals in on-base housing only.
 - iv. Kennel Quarantine:
 - 1. Pets not meeting the entry requirements or SOFA status personnel that are required to live in off-base housing must quarantine their animal(s) at the owner's expense in a quarantine facility.
 - v. Military quarantine facilities are available but limited in boarding space. Please secure kenneling reservations ahead of time.
 - 1. If space is not available the quarantine period must be completed at a designated Japanese Animal Quarantine Station at the arrival airport.
http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/aqs_contact_list_en.pdf

12) SPECIAL NOTE:

- a) The practice of allowing pets to remain in the custody of their owners during the assigned --home quarantine-- period is a privilege and not an obligation on the part of Japanese authorities.
- b) It is imperative U.S. Forces pet owners cooperate and fully comply with Japanese Quarantine Laws and military regulations pertaining to the requirements for examining or otherwise processing animals for entry into or exit from Japan.
- c) Failure to present the animal to a Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) for the final physical examination is a serious violation of Japanese law and may result in a fine or other punishment.
- d) Failure to comply with the requirements for final physical examination will result in a report of the incident being forwarded to the individual's command.
- e) A pet processing checklist is also available to assist clients and veterinarians in completing all requirements in a timely manner. Any questions may be forwarded to the respective Branch Chief or to Commander, JDVC.

13) QUARANTINE FACILITIES:

- a) The pet owner is responsible for all expenses associated with all quarantine procedures, to include the transportation procurement actions to and from any quarantine inspection facilities of the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service or of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- b) DSN phone numbers and websites for military quarantine facilities:
 - i. YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE (Boarding Kennel), 243-4530; From the US: 011-81-46-816-4530
 - ii. ATSUGI (Boarding), DSN: 315-264-5366; From the US: 011-81-467-63-5366,
<https://www.navymwratsugi.com/programs/ed7b0939-4a08-483f-a14a-99d6156a808c>
 - iii. CAMP ZAMA (Boarding Kennel), DSN: 315-263-5915; From the US: 011-81-46-407-5915,
<https://zama.armymwr.com/programs/kennels>
 - iv. MCAS IWAKUNI (VTF), DSN: 315-253-3588,
<https://mccsiwakuni.com/shopping-services/kennel-pet-services-2/>
 - v. MISAWA AB (Pet Kennel), DSN: 315-222-7002,
<https://www.facebook.com/Misawa-Pet-Kennel-346810928827985/>
 - vi. SASEBO NAVAL BASE (Paws 'n' Claws), DSN: 315-252-2905; From the US: 011-81-956-50-2905,
<https://www.navymwrsasebo.com/directory-more/paws-claws>
 - vii. YOKOTA AB (Boarding Kennel), DSN: 315-225-8906; From the US: 011-81-3117-55-8906, <https://yokotafss.com/pet/>
 - viii. OKINAWA-Kadena AB (Boarding Kennel), DSN: 315-966-7339; From the US: 1-512-672-7339,
<https://www.kadenafss.com/family/karing-kennels/>
- c) Some facilities offer group rates and extended boarding discounts.

14) PET QUARANTINE REIMBURSEMENT:

- a) Service members:
 - i. Reimbursement for actual mandatory household pet quarantine fees is authorized, not to exceed \$550 per PCS move.
 - ii. Transportation cost, medical care, grooming, and similar fees for services that are part of routine pet care associated with a PCS are not reimbursable.
 - iii. Boarding costs incurred after the final release dates from quarantine are not reimbursable.
 - iv. EXAMPLE: If on the day the attending veterinarian certifies the pet has completed the quarantine period and the service member cannot take possession of the pet for any reason (i.e., the service member is TDY or pets are not allowed in billeting), the reimbursable amount is set on that date. All subsequent boarding cost(s) are not reimbursable.
 - v. Documents recommended to submit to finance include: boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates and MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine

- b) DOD civilian employees:
 - i. Pet quarantine fees and transportation charges incurred in connection with a PCS are included in the Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (MEA) (Ref. JTR, par. 054103).
 - ii. The flat payment MEA amounts are \$650 and \$1,300 (Ref. JTR par.54102)
 - iii. Documents recommended to submit to finance include: boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates and copy of MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine
- 15) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**
- a) The Japan District Veterinary Command provides medical care for pets of authorized personnel throughout Japan.
 - b) The primary missions of the respective Veterinary Units in Japan are food safety and quality assurance, public health concerns, veterinary care for military working dogs and privately-owned pets.
 - c) Military veterinary services are authorized for animals owned by persons with DOD medical care privileges. A valid SOFA-status identification card is required before services are rendered. Regulations also mandate that all pets are currently microchipped and vaccinated annually against rabies before services are rendered. This policy will be enforced.
 - d) The Japan District Veterinary Command is authorized to provide care to your privately-owned pet(s) as time, space, and personnel resources permit. Care for privately owned animals is just one of many missions performed; therefore, there is no guarantee veterinary services will always be available.
 - e) YOU must be prepared to seek veterinary care from local civilian veterinarians if necessary.

Privately Owned Firearms (POFs) and Bladed Instruments

- 1) **ALL U.S. NAVAL INSTALLATIONS IN JAPAN (FLC Yokosuka, Sasebo, and Atsugi):**
 - a) Importation of all types of firearms into Japan is prohibited.
 - b) U.S. military members, or U.S. Civilian components, assigned to duty either on a permanent basis, or extended temporary duty, shall not import by mail, or household good shipments, any type of handgun, rifle, shotgun, pellet, air or bb guns.

2) FOR OKINAWA:

- a) Importation of handguns, rifles, pellet, air and BB guns to Okinawa is strictly prohibited.
 - b) Possession of these types of firearms on Okinawa is not authorized.
 - i. Shotguns, may be imported, however, it is strongly discouraged. Use of parcel post only (subject to postal regulations). Members must mail shotgun(s) to their gaining unit Commander, marked for member.
 - ii. Shotguns MUST be stored in the armory and can only be checked out as needed for approved use.
 - iii. DOD members must have a current Japanese gun permit prior to transporting, using, storing, or otherwise possessing firearms outside military installations on Okinawa.
 - iv. DoD members planning to ship shotguns must coordinate with their sponsors or gaining unit before proceeding with the shipment.
 - v. U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) personnel must meet the requirements of Japanese law when importing or possessing POFs in Japan.
- 3) Japanese laws are strict.
- 4) Japanese police that discover U.S. Forces personnel carrying a pocket knife or other bladed instruments without a justifiable reason (Self-Defense or General use are not sufficient reasons in Japan) may be apprehended for violation of the Firearms and Swords Control Law or other laws.
 - a) USFJI 31-207, Firearms and Other Weapons in Japan contains detailed information on what weapons can and cannot be shipped to Japan. It also incorporates changes to Japanese law with regard to possession and ownership of knives and other bladed instruments.
- 5) The Japanese Government has PROHIBITED local agents in Japan from line hauling HHGs shipments containing firearms on Japanese highways.
- 6) NOT AUTHORIZED: USFJ members are NOT AUTHORIZED to import or possess the following in Japan (includes Okinawa).
 - a) Handguns
 - b) Toy-Related Guns (toy gun made from metal in a form remarkably resembling a handgun)
 - c) Air gun
 - d) BB gun
 - e) A muffler or a silencer for any firearm
 - f) Machine gun
 - g) Shotguns larger than 12 gauge (i.e. 8 and 10gauge are prohibited)
 - h) .410 caliber shotguns that the Japanese government considers technically capable of firing a rifle round.
 - i) Any power-charged rifle for hunting game birds.
 - j) Imitation handgun.
 - k) Any product made from metal in a form remarkably resembling a handgun.

- 7) Privately owned firearms will not be shipped in either unaccompanied baggage (UB) or household goods (HHG) shipments to from Japan.
 - a) Shotguns and rifles will be mailed to Japan through the U.S. Postal System, consigned to the Commander, unit of assignment, of the gaining member, and stored IAW Commanders guidance developed IAW paragraph 12.1 and 12.2 of USFJI 31-207 until properly registered IAW with paragraph 5.6. (CH 20-Sep-2012, SDDC-PAC RB)
- 8) **POF STORAGE:** Service Component and installation Commanders will determine firearms storage requirements for persons residing in accompanied housing on U.S. installations. Privately owned firearms will not be stored in unaccompanied housing quarters or billeting. Privately owned firearms may only be stored in off base housing once they have been properly registered with the government of Japan and comply with Japanese laws for firearms storage.
 - a) Until personnel acquire their firearms permit, weapons must be stored in approved weapon storage areas within USFJ installations.
- 9) **COMMANDER AUTHORIZATION:** Service commanders are authorized to impose more stringent requirements than those outlined herein regarding privately owned firearms (POFs). It is imperative that all inbound personnel interested in shipping firearms and other weapons as part of a move to Japan contact their unit of assignment prior to arranging shipments.
- 10) **POF REGISTRATION:**
 - a) All privately owned firearms must be registered at the installation where owners are assigned within 7 days after importation or acquisition.
 - b) Japanese firearm permits are required for possessing, using, storing, and transporting privately owned firearms outside U.S. installations and facilities.
- 11) **AGE REQUIREMENT:**
 - a) Persons under 20 years old, to include military members, are prohibited from owning, purchasing, possessing, carrying, or registering privately owned firearms and ammunition in Japan.
 - b) **AMMUNITION:**
 - i. Members are prohibited from importing or exporting privately owned ammunition into Japan.
 - ii. The sale or transfer of ammunition to non-SOFA status individuals is strictly prohibited.

12) BLADED INSTRUMENTS:

- a) Japanese law prohibits restricts bladed instruments outside of U.S. installations and facilities.
- b) Items prohibited from importing into Japan, including Okinawa are:
 - i. Privately owned daggers and double-edged knives with a blade length of 5.5 centimeters (2.1 inches) or longer.
 - ii. Spring switchblade knives with a mechanism to automatically open a blade 45 degrees or more.
 - iii. CUTLERY: Cutlery (such as kitchen knives, box cutters, or other single, non-folding bladed cutting instruments) exceeding 6 centimeters (2.3 inches) are prohibited outside of U.S. installations and facilities unless carried for business or other justifiable reasons.
 - iv. Recommend shorter bladed instruments also not be carried unless for business or other justifiable reason.
 - v. Cutlery that is less than 6 centimeters (2.3 inches) without a justifiable reason may also result in being detained or apprehended for a violation of a Minor Offense law.
 - vi. SCISSORS OR FOLDING KNIVES: Scissors or folding knives exceeding 8 centimeters (3.1 inches) are prohibited outside of U.S. installations and facilities unless carried for business or other justifiable reasons.

13) SWORDS:

- a) Swords may be detained or confiscated by Japanese Customs officials upon entry into Japan.
- b) Swords that are part of an official U.S. military (including U.S. Coast Guard) uniform do not require a permit or registration with the Japanese authorities. However, they must be listed on the owners travel orders.
- c) For transporting swords outside of U.S. installations for other than official U.S. military ceremonies, authorization must be obtained from the local Public Safety Commission (Police Department) prior to the event.
- d) Transporting official military swords outside of U.S. facilities and areas as part of official ceremonial functions, or as part of an official uniform, and also when entering or departing Japan, should be authorized in writing by appropriate commanders.
- e) A person that carries or transports a privately owned sword (non-part of an official U.S. military uniform) outside of U.S. installations shall carry a Japanese license or registration certificate for the sword.

14) BLADED INSTRUMENT TRANSPORTATION:

- a) Transporting privately owned bladed instruments outside U.S. facilities and areas for off-base cultural or sporting activities must be IAW Japanese law.
- b) For transporting knives or other cutlery to camping or other recreational events, it is recommended to pack the items with the camping or other gear to confirm their intended use.

c) BOWS AND ARROWS:

i. Recreational bows arrows are considered weapons and must be controlled to prevent misuse. Recreational bows arrows are authorized under the following conditions:

1. Individual Use. Personal bows arrows for individual recreational use may only be imported into Japan via authorized household shipments or purchased through authorized retailers in Japan, including through Article XV organizations.
2. Personnel are authorized to store bows arrows in their on base government quarters, unless otherwise directed by local installation instructions.
3. Storage of bows arrows in off installation residences will be in accordance with Japanese law.
4. Bows arrows will be stored in a locked container or closet to prevent access to minors or unauthorized personnel when not in use.
5. Storage of bows arrows is not authorized in unaccompanied barracks dormitories.
6. Service Component and installation Commanders will determine registration requirements, if any.

15) **LAWFULLY IMPORT:** The following types of POFs may be lawfully imported and registered in Japan by US Forces personnel:

- a) Hunting and sporting rifles including .22 caliber rifles. However, .22 caliber rifles are prohibited for hunting. The minimum bore size for hunting in Japan is .23 caliber.
- b) Defined as a gun customarily used for hunting or sporting, including military type rifles that have been converted permanently.
- c) Hunting and sporting rifles (including shotguns) must meet the following restrictions:
 - i. Not capable of automatic, successive firing such as machine guns.
 - ii. The magazine shall be such that it can load no more than 5 rounds of ammunition or metal bullets.
 - iii. Shotguns may not have a load capacity greater than 3 rounds.
 - iv. The caliber of a rifle bore cannot exceed 0.41 inches (10.5 millimeters).
 - v. Shotgun bores cannot be larger than 12gauge i.e. 8 and 10-gauge shotguns are prohibited.
 - vi. The length of the rifle or shot gun must exceed 37 inches (93.9 centimeters).
 - vii. The length of the barrel must exceed 19.25 inches (48.8 centimeters).
 - viii. Not equipped with a silencing device or silencing equipment to produce silencing effect.
 - ix. Not having such serious defects in the firing mechanism or barrel as would create apprehension that a hazard exists.

- x. .410 caliber shotguns that the Japanese government does not consider technically capable of firing a rifle round.
 - xi. Firearms designed primarily for target, skeet or trap shooting must be of the types listed above and restrictions stated above apply.
- 16) AIR GUNS, BB GUNS, PAINTBALL GUNS, PAINTBALL MARKERS (to include Okinawa):
- a) Shipment of air guns, also called pellet or BB guns, that propel metallic projectiles are **NOT** authorized in any personal property shipments (household goods or unaccompanied baggage).
 - b) Air guns (including those in which compressed gas is used) equipped with a mechanism for shooting metallic bullets are considered firearms under Japanese law.
 - c) Paintball markers or paintball guns with a maximum velocity UP TO 300 Feet Per Second (fps) may be shipped in any personal property shipments (HHG and UB).
 - i. All DoD installations in Japan do not prohibit shipment, storage, and use of paintball guns/markers for use at MWR facilities that accommodate paintball tournaments and or activities.
 - ii. Paintball guns markers will only be used during official paintball functions (i.e.-Outdoor Recreation sponsored programs events, official paintball competitions, etc.).
 - iii. Any individual who owns a paintball gun marker that closely resembles an actual firearm --MUST-- make arrangements with the Outdoor Recreation section to store the paintball gun marker.
 - iv. If arrangements are not made and the paintball gun marker is discovered, the paintball gun marker will be accounted for, controlled, and stored by military authorities IAW appropriate Service regulations until such individuals depart Japan or until the paintball gun marker is destroyed.

Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs)

- 1) POV shipments are subject to embargo or waiver requirements.
- 2) Effective 1 April 1996, the Assistant Secretary for Defense (for Management Policy) has granted limited case-by-case, waiver authority to Commander USFJ for shipment of post 1976 type vehicles to Mainland Japan only.
- 3) Okinawa continues to be under an embargo status and is not included under this waiver authority except for Category C POVs.
- 4) The waiver authority for Mainland Japan has been further delegated by USFJ to Component Commanders.
- 5) When requesting a waiver, the following information should be included:
 - a) make, year, model of vehicle
 - b) Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
 - c) if equipped with California emission.

- 6) All DoD military members/employees must obtain prior approval from their respective service authority in Japan. All imported motor vehicles must be registered by the Government of Japan.
- 7) All DoD service members MUST be aware of the following items:
 - a) the high cost of initial registration of their POV in Japan (\$3000 to \$5000 dollars per vehicle based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar),
 - b) availability of parts and qualified maintenance, emissions testing (\$3,000 to \$5,000).
 - i. POVs shipped to Japan are either category A, B or C: CATEGORY A are POVs manufactured prior to 31 March 1976. Category A POVs will have to meet the insurance, taxes, registration fees and local vehicle emission standards and safety requirements (headlights, color of bulbs, MPH to KMPH, speedometer, etc.). This category will NOT require a waiver. Category A POVs may be shipped to Mainland Japan or Okinawa, Japan as appropriate. Estimated cost per vehicle is between \$500 to \$1000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar.
 - ii. CATEGORY B are POVs manufactured after 31 March 1976. Category B POVs will have to pass the Japanese Vehicle Emission Standards (JVES), plus the above-mentioned items (insurance, tax, and registration requirements). This category will require a waiver (component services) and is authorized for shipment to Mainland Japan ONLY! Estimated cost per vehicle is between \$3000 to \$5000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar.
 - c) CATEGORY C are Japan-spec POVs previously registered and exported from mainland Japan and/or Okinawa. Category C POVs require a shipment waiver from service component representatives acknowledging all associated costs will be at the personal expense. Copy of the original car title or Japan export title will be presented to Land Transportation Office (LTO) during counseling and to the origin Vehicle Processing Center (VPC). If copy of original car title is returned to LTO at the time of de-registration or export processing, then a copy of latest vehicle registration must accompany the waiver request. Per confirmation from the National Agency, Vehicle Inspections Office, Okinawa, emissions testing is not required for stock vehicles and can be registered in mainland and/or Okinawa, Japan. In order to ensure current emissions and safety standards are met, all modified Japan-spec POVs will be shipped to mainland Japan to undergo emissions, safety, and noise testing. All additional costs plus the subsequent delivery to Okinawa will be at member's or DoD employee's expense. Origin VPCs must ensure NOT to ship any modified Japan-spec POVs directly to Okinawa to include POVs purchased from a Japan Export Company. Any changes that affects safety and the manufacturer's original factory intake, exhaust, tuning and suspension are considered car modification.

- 8) **POV WAIVERS:** All DOD military members' employees must obtain prior approval from their respective service authority in Japan for shipment of POVs.
 - a) **WAIVER POC FOR NAVY:** Commander, Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka, ATTN: Code 440, PSC 473 BOX 11, FPO AP 96349. Phone: DSN: 315-243-6310 or 6311, DSN FAX: 315-243-7011, Emails: hhg.yokosuka@fe.navy.mil and jppso_jp_counseling@fe.navy.mil.
 - b) Due to the remote locations and size of the installations of CDR Fleet Activities Sasebo NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka Site Sasebo, MCAS Iwakuni and Misawa AB, there are no on-base facilities authorized to modify or inspect vehicles to meet Japan emission and safety standards.
- 9) **COST:**
 - a) The estimated cost per vehicle may be \$2,000 to \$5,000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar regardless of vehicle category A or B.
 - b) Oversized vehicles (i.e.-special purpose vehicles, campers, motor homes, recreational vehicles, etc.) exceeding 12 meters in length, 2.5 meters in width, and or 3.8 meters in height will not comply with Japanese registration standards.
 - i. Modifications, including installed camper shells, cannot protrude more than 15cm from each side of the vehicle.
 - ii. Total vehicle weight cannot exceed 20 tons: axle weight-10 tons; and wheel weight-5 tons.
 - c) Members should contact their sponsors and or transportation offices concerning the current cost of owning and operating POVs in Japan.
 - d) **DIESEL** passenger vehicles shipped to the Kanto plain: "Government of Japan vehicle regulations concerning some diesel-powered vehicles are in effect in the Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka metropolitan regions. U.S. Forces must abide by these regulations.
 - i. The Tokyo region includes CFAY Yokosuka, NAF Atsugi, Yokota AB and Camp Zama.
 - ii. The new regulations are designed to reduce pollution in these heavy-traffic areas.
 - iii. Owners of older model diesel vehicles must determine if this law applies to their POV prior to shipping to an affected area.
 - iv. If they are shipping intra-Japan, they can check with their local Land Transportation Office (LTO).
- 10) **MOTORCYCLES MOPEDS:**
 - a) Motorcycles Mopeds over 250cc, manufactured 1 July 1999 or later, must comply with Government Of Japan (GOJ)-imposed brake standards.
 - b) Motorcycles mopeds over 250cc, manufactured 1 April 2001 or later, must pass GOJ emissions testing and meet engine-exhaust emission control standards.
 - c) The estimated minimum costs for mandatory engine exhaust emission testing is approximately \$800.
 - d) Costs to bring a noncompliant motorcycle to standards depends on type model.

- e) If a motorcycle does not meet brake standards, costs to bring the motorcycle into compliance could run \$2000-\$4000.
- f) There is only one brake testing facility in Tokyo; two emission testing facilities located in Tokyo and one in Osaka.
- g) There are no brake or emissions testing facilities on Okinawa.
- h) Furthermore, there are no brake or emissions testing facilities near Misawa, Sasebo, or Iwakuni (mainland Japan).
- i) Current DoD policy on importing motorcycles mopeds over 250cc:
 - i. Manufactured prior to 1 Jul 99: No import restrictions.
 - ii. Manufactured 1 Jul 99 to 31 Mar 01: The motorcycle must meet brake standards. No import restrictions to mainland Japan, however, member should have a manufacturers certificate stating the motorcycle meets Japanese brake standards.
 - 1. Members assigned to military installations outside the Kanto Plain (Tokyo area) will face high costs and extreme inconvenience transporting the motorcycle to a brake testing facility, if testing is required.
 - 2. Members assigned to Okinawa do not have a brake testing facility on the island.
 - 3. The motorcycle owner, whether assigned to mainland Japan or Okinawa, should contact the motorcycle manufacturer and obtain a certificate that specifically states the vehicle meets Japanese brake standards.
 - 4. If the member has any doubt about meeting the brake standard, he/she may send the manufacturers brake certificate to the sponsor in Japan and ask him her to check with the local LTO.
 - 5. Ensuring the brakes meet Japanese standards prior to shipment is critical, especially for Okinawa, as there are no brake testing facilities on the island.
 - iii. Manufactured 1 Apr 01 or later:
 - 1. Both brake and engine exhaust emission standards must be met.
 - 2. Members assigned to military installations outside the Kanto Plain (Tokyo area) will face high costs and extreme inconvenience transporting the motorcycle to an engine exhaust testing facility, and to a brake testing facility (if required).
 - 3. Members must sign a memo (prepared by origin Transportation Officer) acknowledging costs inconvenience if the member chooses to ship to mainland Japan.
 - 4. A copy of this memo will be included in advance shipping documents sent to the destination Transportation Office.
 - 5. Motorcycles are prohibited from importation to Okinawa due to the lack of brake and emission testing facilities.

- j) Motorcycles mopeds must be insured with a temporary registration tag in order to be driven to a testing facility.
- k) Service members may also use their POV storage entitlement (if a POV is not shipped) to store their motorcycle as a POV in the POV storage program where it will receive proper care.

GASOLINE/CATALYTIC CONVERTERS:

- 1) Gasoline purchased on military installations is 89 octane.
- 2) Off-installation gasoline is minimum 89 octane. Prices off base start at approximately \$4.00 per gallon for 89 octane.
- 3) Higher grade gasoline off base is more expensive.

INSURANCE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Effective 01 Jan 1997, each POV shall have insurance required by the Japanese Motor Vehicle Damage Compensation Guaranty Law.
- 2) POV owners must secure and maintain supplemental coverage of no less than 30,000,000 Yen or \$300,000 for bodily injury, and 3,000,000 Yen or \$30,000 for property damage.
- 3) Military and family members, and civilians assigned to US Navy commands, shall not operate private or rental vehicles unless the proper insurance provisions have been met.

Sexually Explicit/Pornographic Material

- 1) The importation of pornographic material is a violation of Japanese law.
- 2) Any exposure of the pubic area is considered pornographic.
- 3) Those items determined to be pornographic will be confiscated and destroyed.

Transmitting Equipment

- 1) Transmitting equipment is defined as any device that emits a wireless radio frequency signal. This includes, but is not limited to, the specific equipment devices described below.
- 2) Transmitting devices designed and manufactured to be used in the U.S. operate in frequency bands authorized for their use in the U.S.
- 3) Many of those same devices cannot be used in Japan because of different Japanese allocations for frequency bands.
- 4) Any questions concerning the operation of personal wireless devices or radio transmitting equipment should be directed to the base frequency manager or the U.S. Forces Joint Frequency Management Office (JFMO) at Yokota AB, Japan (DSN) 315-225-4613, (CML from U.S.) 011-81-311-755-4613, (CML from Japan) 042-552-2510 x54613.

- 5) **Unauthorized use of any transmitting equipment in Japan could result in severe penalties, including monetary fines and imprisonment.**
- 6) **CITIZEN BAND (CB) RADIO EQUIPMENT:**
 - a) The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) prohibits the use of CB equipment in Japan by U.S. Forces personnel.
 - b) CB equipment typically is available in the form of small walkie-talkie type radios that transmit and receive in the citizen's radio service band.
 - c) These radios are normally known in the U.S. as Family Radio Service (FRS) or General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS).
- 7) **AMATEUR HAM RADIOS:**
 - a) Amateur HAM radio use on U.S. bases and facilities in Japan must be approved by the appropriate base frequency manager and base commander.
 - b) The foreign (non-Japanese) operator must submit an application to the Japanese government, regardless of the location of the transmitting equipment.
 - c) More information about foreigners using amateur radio in Japan is available at: <http://www.jarl.org/English/0-2.htm>
- 8) **BABY MONITORS:**
 - a) The use of baby monitors or baby alarms is permitted in Japan with the provision that the device operates in the 2.4 Gigahertz (GHz) band.
 - b) **Many types of baby monitoring devices made for use in the US cannot be used in Japan because they operate in the 900 mhz band, which is used for a different purpose in Japan.**
 - c) Use of these 900 MHz monitors causes extensive interference to Japanese emergency and cell phone networks.
 - d) **US Forces using these 900 mhz baby monitors in Japan are subject to monetary fines and disciplinary action.**
 - e) Any questions about whether a particular baby monitor is authorized or not should be directed to the base frequency manager or the USFJ JFMO.
- 9) **WIRELESS LOCAL AREANETWORK (LAN) TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT:**
 - a) The use of wireless LAN equipment is authorized in Japan as long as it transmits in the 2.4 GHz frequency band.
 - b) The use of amplifiers, boosters, or any other device that alters the transmitted power or the transmitted signal characteristics is strictly prohibited.
- 10) **CORDLESS TELEPHONES:**
 - a) Cordless home telephones may be used in Japan but must operate in one of the following frequency bands: 2.4 GHz (Gigahertz)5.8 GHz.
 - b) Specifically prohibited are cordless telephones with base stations and or remote units that transmit in the 900 MHz (Megahertz) band. These 900 MHz phones cause extensive interference to Japanese emergency and cell networks.

- c) Any other cordless telephone use (other than 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz) must be approved by the appropriate base frequency manager.
- 11) RADIO CONTROLLED MODEL EQUIPMENT (RCME):
- a) RCME is defined as scale model aircraft, boats, vehicles, etc. remotely controlled using radiofrequencies.
 - b) Use of RCME is authorized per the following guidance:
 - i. Operator, controlling transmitter, and controlled device must be entirely within the confines of U.S. facilities and areas.
 - ii. Japan-wide: Remote control transmitter must operate on one of the following frequencies at no more than 2 watts of power: 26.995, 27.045, 27.095, and 27.255 Megahertz (MHz).
 - iii. Japan-wide: Remote control transmitter must operate on one of the following frequencies at no more than 1 watt of power: 72.24, 72.4, 75.64 MHz.
 - iv. Additional frequencies in these same bands have been approved for specific Japan U.S. base locations and can be provided upon request by the appropriate base frequency manager or the USFJ JFMO. (CH, SDPPP-PAC, Jan 14, 2011)
- 12) DISH ANTENNAS:
- a) Personally owned satellite dishes are prohibited.

Other

- 1) JAPAN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:
- a. Japanese Customs offices close 29 Dec through 03 Jan.
 - b. Many commercial companies including transportation and port operations close between 29 Apr through 05 May for golden week.
 - c. Official holidays
 - 01 Jan - New Year's Day
 - 2nd Monday of Jan - Adulthood Day
 - 11 Feb - National Foundation Day
 - 21 Mar - Vernal Equinox Day
 - 29 Apr - Showa-No-Hi (Ex Emperors Birthday)
 - 03 May - Constitution Day
 - 04 May - Midori-No-Hi (Green Day)
 - 05 May - Children's Day
 - 3rd Monday of July - Ocean Day
 - 11 Aug - Mountain Day
 - 3rd Monday of Sep - Respect for the Aged Day
 - 23 Sep - Autumn Equinox Day
 - 2nd Monday of Oct - Health - Athletics Day
 - 03 Nov - Culture Day
 - 23 Nov - Labor-Thanksgiving Day
 - 23 Dec - Emperor's Birthday (2108 ONLY)

2) BOATS:

- a. Okinawa:
 - i. Considering all the expenses involved and limited weight entitlement allowed, shipping a boat is discouraged.
 - ii. It is difficult and expensive to obtain a boat license. There are only two boat licensing classes per year costing approximately \$300.
 - iii. Boat registration fee is approximately \$80 per year.
- b. Japan: Sailboats, motorboats, jet skis and wave runners may be imported duty-free subject to the following provisions:
 - i. Boats must be included in personal property shipments and imported within 6 months of sponsors arrival in Japan.
 - ii. Japan law states boats are not assessed customs duty, therefore, USFJ Form 380 EJ is not required.
 - iii. Member/employee must declare boat as unaccompanied personal property at the time of his/her entry in Japan and possess evidence of ownership (title registration papers) and date of purchase.
- c. If an imported boat is subsequently sold transferred to non-SOFA personnel (enterpriser or business), consumption tax of 5 percent of the boats value may be charged by the Government of Japan.
- d. Member/employee should be aware of the following:
 - i. Insurance costs average \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually, depending on coverage.
 - ii. Any individual operating a boat with a motor must obtain a Japan Class 2 boating license (Certificate of Competency for Small Vessel Operator). The license cost is approximately \$400, and the test is only given in English twice each year.
 - iii. A Personal Watercraft (PWC) requires an additional license. Both licenses involve a written and practical examination.
 - iv. Parking is very limited at the marina, as well as in off-base housing areas.
 - v. Ball type hitches are very rare and should be shipped in with the water craft, or trailers must be converted for a pintle hook connection.
 - vi. A towing license is required to tow any trailer in Japan. An ordinary SOFA license is not sufficient.
 - vii. Slips at Japanese marinas are very expensive. A typical Tokyo Bay for a 30-foot boat will cost at least \$23,000 for the first year and \$10,000 each additional year (Yokohama Bayside Marina).