

Q & A

for those who are bringing medicines into Japan

Q1. Can I bring any prescription medicine into Japan with me?

A1. You can bring any prescription medicine into Japan with you without any special procedures on condition that

- (1) you bring it only for your own use
- (2) it is not any prohibited drug such as Methamphetamine in Japan,
- (3) it is not any especially controlled drug such as Narcotics in Japan,
- (4) and its quantity is up to one month supply.

Q2. How can I bring more than one month supply of prescription medicine only for my own use into Japan with me?

A2. You can bring more than one month supply of any prescription medicine, if you apply for a so-called “Yakkan Shoumei”, a kind of import certificate, and receive it before you leave home.

Q3. How can I bring any injection and injector only for my own use into Japan with me?

A3. You can bring only a so-called “Pre-filled Syringe” or “Self-injection Kit” into Japan with you. If you intend to bring more than one month supply of injection or injector, you have to apply for a so-called “Yakkan Shoumei”, a kind of import certificate, and receive it before you leave home.

Q4. How can I receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A4. You have to submit the application documents by post.

If the Pharmaceutical Inspector can confirm that your application documents are complete, he/she will send you a “Yakkan Shoumei” by post, e-mail (PDF) or fax.

Q5. What kinds of documents are required in order to apply for a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A5. The following documents are required in order to apply for a “Yakkan Shoumei”.

- 1) **Import Report of Medication** (with your signature, and needed 2 copies only as to this document), filled in the blank application form (See the “Application Forms” attached.) according to the sample application document. (See the “Application Forms” attached.)
- 2) **Explanation of Product**, filled in the blank application form (See the “Application Forms” attached.) according to the sample application document. (See the Application Forms” attached.) You have to create this document for each product.
(Alternative documents such as pamphlets by manufacturers can be accepted, if they show the descriptions required in Explanation of Product.)
- 3) **Copy of Prescription or Direction for medicines with doctor’s signature**, by which the Pharmaceutical Inspector can confirm the name and the quantity of each medicine only for your own use clearly.
- 4) **Document indicating Arrival Date and Place** (ex. Copy of Airline Ticket or Flight Itinerary.)
- 5) (If you need an original “Yakkan Shoumei”) **Return Envelope** with Japanese Postal Stamps required and with Address where you want to receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”. (“Coupon –Réponse International” can be accepted instead of Japanese Postal Stamps required, and Return Envelope needs to have the length 14~23.5 cm and the width 9~12 cm.) If you prefer to receive a “Yakkan Shoumei” by e-mail (or fax), you do not need to send a return envelope and stamps. Instead, you have to write down your e-mail address (or fax number) clearly in the Import Report of Medication. However, the Kanto-Shin’etsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare would NOT send a “Yakkan Shoumei” by fax.

Q6. To which office can I submit application documents for a “Yakkan Shoumei” by post?

A6. If you arrive at the Narita International Airport, you have to submit the application documents to the Kanto-Shin'etsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare.
The following is their address.

Pharmaceutical Inspector
Section of Inspection and Guidance,
Kanto-Shin'etsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Saitama-Shintoshin Godochosha 1, 7th floor,
1-1Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama City,
Saitama Prefecture, JAPAN 330-9713

If you arrive at the Kansai International Airport or the Chubu International Airport, you have to submit the application documents to the Kinki Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare.
The following is their address.

Pharmaceutical Inspector
Section of Inspection and Guidance,
Kinki Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
Ohue Building, 7th floor,
1-1-22 Nonin Bashi,
Osaka City, Chuo-ku, Osaka Prefecture, JAPAN 540-0011,

If you arrive at the Naha Airport, you have to submit the application documents to the Okinawa Narcotics Control Office, the Kyushu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare,
The following is their address.

Pharmaceutical Inspector
Section of Inspection and Guidance,
Okinawa Narcotics Control Office ,
Kyushu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
Naha-Daiichi-Godocho, 6th floor,
1-15-15 Higawa,
Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, JAPAN 900-0022,

Q7. What shall I do, if I have received a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A7. A “Yakkan Shoumei” is the Import Report of Medication, on which one of the Pharmaceutical Inspectors put confirmation seals, certificate numbers, his/her name, and so on.

You have to bring the “Yakkan Shoumei” with your medicines in order to show it to the Customs on request when you arrive in Japan. The copy of “Yakkan Shoumei” is acceptable at the Customs.

It will be valid only when your luggage contents are the same as indicated on the “Yakkan Shoumei”.

You have to take care never to correct the “Yakkan Shoumei”, or it becomes invalid.

Q8. How long does it take to receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A8. It depends on the completeness of your application documents and days by post required.

If you are in North America, Europe or Australia, it will take about a week for the application documents to reach Japan by post and it will take about a week for a “Yakkan Shoumei” to reach you by post.

Therefore, if you need an original “Yakkan Shoumei”, it usually takes about two weeks totally to receive it, even if your application documents are complete. If you do not need an original one, you can obtain a copy of “Yakkan Shoumei” by e-mail (or fax) about one week after you send your application documents.

Q9. What shall I do, if my application is rejected because of lack of documents ?

A9. If your application documents are not complete, the Pharmaceutical Inspector may request the additional or revised documents.

If you show your fax number or e-mail address, you can receive his/her request more rapidly to submit the additional or revised documents.

Please write down your address, fax number or e-mail address correctly.

Q10. What shall I do, if I have further questions regarding medicines which I am bringing into Japan with me, or if I have little time before I leave home?

A10. Please contact any Pharmaceutical Inspector in your place of arrival's neighboring office.

- Kanto-Shin'etsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare

TEL: +81-48-740-0800

FAX: +81-48-601-1336

e-mail: yakkan-shomei@mhlw.go.jp

(Place of arrival: Narita international Airport, Tokyo International Airport, etc.)

- Kinki Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare

TEL: +81-6-6942-4096

FAX:+81-6-6942-2472

e-mail: kiyakuji@mhlw.go.jp

(Place of arrival: Chubu Centrair International Airport, Kansai International Airport, etc.)

- Okinawa Narcotics Control Office

TEL: +81-98-853-7100

FAX:+81-98-853-7101

e-mail:okinawa-yakuji@mhlw.go.jp

(Place of arrival: Naha Airport, etc.)