

To the Managers of Medical Profession Sections, Health and Welfare Departments of each Regional Bureau for Health and Welfare

Manager of Compliance and Narcotics Division
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Concerning procedures for importing iodine preparations (potassium iodine) sent from overseas companies to their branch offices in Japan

In relation to the suffering associated with the 2011 Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake and the resulting tsunami that struck on March 11, 2011, we have received a number of inquiries about importation procedures in case overseas companies send iodine preparations (potassium iodine) to their branch offices in Japan.

We are handling the customs clearance of pharmaceuticals in such cases as follows.

1. As a pharmaceutical prescribed by an industrial doctor of a Japanese company in Japan or a doctor of an allied medical institution for employees, etc., it is possible to import such pharmaceuticals if the doctor as an individual follows the application procedures for private import using an "Import Report of Medication".
2. Even if an individual other than a doctor imports pharmaceuticals, provided the volume of the prescription is for one month per person, the pharmaceuticals can be imported without performing procedures for private import.

To the managers of Customs Clearance Sections, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance

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Please contact our section if you have any questions about the handling method described below.

1. As a pharmaceutical prescribed by an industrial doctor at the destination or a doctor of an allied medical institution for employees, etc. under his/her own responsibility, it is possible to import such pharmaceuticals if the doctor himself/herself follows the application procedures for private import using an "Import Report of Medication".
2. Even if an individual other than a doctor imports pharmaceuticals, provided the volume of the prescription is for one month per person, the pharmaceuticals can be imported without performing procedures for private import in the same way as for handling conventional prescribed pharmaceuticals.