

BY ORDER OF THE  
COMMANDER

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN  
INSTRUCTION 24-100



1 September 2022

Transportation

TRANSPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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**ACCESSIBILITY:** Publications and forms are available on the U.S. Forces Japan webpage at:  
<https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/yokota/USFJ/USFJResources/References/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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**RELEASABILITY:** There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

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**PURPOSE:** To provide guidance relating to the movement of explosives over highways in Japan by U.S. forces. This instruction ensures U.S. Forces comply with Japanese laws and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES.** Administrative.

1. **Scope.** This instruction is applicable to all United States Forces Japan (USFJ) Service component commands.
2. **General.** Outlines the procedures pertaining to the movement of explosives over highways in Japan.
3. **Responsibilities.**
  - 3.1. USFJ/J41 will update and publish the most current version of USFJ instruction.
4. **Procedures.** These procedures are to ensure safety in hauling explosives over highways in Japan and are applicable to U.S. forces in Japan:
  - 4.1. Markings of Vehicles:
    - 4.1.1. Vehicles carrying explosives on public highways will display, on the forward and rear parts of the vehicle, prominent explosive signs approximating 38 centimeters (15 inches) square with circled Japanese Kanji or symbol representing explosive in white on a red background. Luminous or fluorescent paint should be used for these signs if practicable.
    - 4.1.2. In any instance of hauling explosives on the public highways at night, display a red light or lights, which are plainly visible to the front and rear for a distance of 150 meters.
  - 4.2. Methods of Loading:

4.2.1. Explosives shall be packed firmly and loads securely fastened on the vehicle in such a way as to prevent the loads from moving, e.g. shifting, sliding, falling or dropping during transport.

4.2.1.1. Exposed explosives shall be covered with flame resistant coverings. "Exposed" explosives are explosives that are actually visible (such as unpacked bulk explosives, or disassembled or open components) and susceptible to ignition directly by static or mechanical sparks or create (or accidentally create) explosive dust or give off vapors, fumes, or gases in explosive concentration.

4.2.1.2. The weight of loads (including that of packing) cannot be in excess of 100% of the maximum loading capacity of the carrying vehicles. Whenever service regulations prescribe more stringent conditions, the shipping service's regulation will apply.

4.2.2. Prohibition of Mixed Loading, explosives must not be loaded together with the following items:

4.2.2.1. Ignitable or inflammable cargo.

4.2.2.1.1. Cargo which could appreciably increase the damage potential if present during an accidental detonation, such as poison and/or radioactive substances.

4.2.2.1.2. Fuses and primers shall not be loaded together with low or high explosives, bombs, torpedoes, projectiles or rockets, except those munitions/missiles that have a fuse designed to be shipped as an integral part of the munitions/missiles.

4.2.2.2. When a mixed load consists of cargo not prohibited by 4.2.2.1 or 4.2.2.1.1 above, the total weight of the load will not be in excess of 100% of the maximum loading capacity of the carrying vehicles.

4.2.3. Regulations on Transportation:

4.2.3.1. In the transportation of explosives by vehicles, the following regulations will be observed:

4.2.3.1.1. Drivers will take a 15 minute rest every 200 KMs or less.

4.2.3.1.2 An observer or assistant driver shall be assigned to each vehicle carrying explosives.

4.2.3.1.3 When parking, inappropriate places will be avoided and observers posted.

4.2.3.1.4 In the case of parking on highways at night or in times of poor visibility, red lights will be placed 15 meters in front of and 15 meters to the rear of the vehicle.

4.2.3.1.5 Except when passing another vehicle, explosive carrying vehicles shall maintain a following distance of at least 80 meters. Explosives vehicles shall not be parked within 50 meters of any other explosives vehicles.

4.2.3.1.6. When explosives are in transit and require unloading for transfer, a watchman will be posted for guarding the load. Should a transfer delay occur, the explosives will be stored in a suitable powder magazine or equivalent equipped storage facility. Shipping/receiving agents

must also ensure that they follow applicable guidance as found in the Defense Transportation Regulations.

#### 4.2.3.2. Security Guards/Escorts.

4.2.3.2.1. The Transportation Officer (TO) reserves the right to furnish unarmed security guards or unarmed military police escorts for any or all commercial vehicles while the vehicles are engaged in the performance of services. The Contactor shall, if required by the TO, permit one (1) unarmed security guard or escort to ride on any or all of the vehicles at no extra charge. In the event the security guard is used, the Contractor is not required to return him/her to the loading point.

4.2.3.2.2 IAW USFJ Instruction 31-205, U.S. Military Police/Security Forces escorts will be limited to those operational requirements where the safety or security of U.S. Forces personnel or vital military property is involved. The escorts will not be used outside USFJ installations, facilities, and areas, except where prior notifications have been made to appropriate GoJ authorities, if so required. If not required, recommend prior notification when the mission permits. When armed escorts are required, all convoy and escort movements will be coordinated by the convoy commander with the local base(s) involved via the local Provost Marshal authorities. The Provost Marshal authorities, in turn, will further coordinate with GoJ traffic control authorities responsible for the areas through which the convoy will pass.

#### 4.3. Coordinating Procedures:

4.3.1. When explosives in excess of 900 kilograms (2,000 pounds net weight of explosives) are to be carried by vehicle on the public highways, advance notice of the shipment must be given to the concerned prefectural police headquarters. In the case of movements that occur at frequent intervals and continue for lengthy periods, one notice covering the period involved will be sufficient.

4.3.2. Commercial contractors transporting explosives for U.S. Forces under contract must follow all procedures required by Japanese law. When cargo movement is contracted to a Japanese transport company, due caution must be given to contractor personnel by informing the contractor of the nature and shape of explosives.

4.3.3. In the selection of an appropriate transportation route, the transiting of busy city areas will be avoided whenever possible. Frequent coordination will be accomplished with the concerned prefectural police headquarters as to the routes to be used in transporting explosives.

4.3.4. Experienced and responsible drivers will be assigned to drive the vehicles loaded with explosives.

#### 4.4. Routine/Non-emergency disposal of Explosives:

4.4.1. Whenever ammunition or explosives are disposed of, if by burning or detonation on land, the disposal will be at times, places, and under circumstances authorized by the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee.

4.4.2. Under no circumstances will U.S. Forces Japan service components dispose of explosives by dumping them into the ocean.

4.4.3. If at any time the laws or regulations are changed, appropriate changes will be made to these procedures as mutually agreed and approved in the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee.

4.4.4. For emergency destruct or UXO handling procedures, please refer to the *Bilateral Procedures for Handling and Disposition of Unexploded Ordnance and Marine Markers Found in Japan*.

## 5. Distribution.

5.1. HQ USFJ publications will be available on the official publications website and can be accessed by applicable military components. Paper distribution control symbols (i.e., Distribution A, L, X, etc.) are no longer authorized for HQ USFJ publications. The issuing Office of Primary Responsibility controls all aspects of publications under their purview to include special, limited, and controlled distribution and master copies.

5.2. In some instances, non-military government domain users (i.e., Department of Defense Dependent Schools), Embassy staff or Exchange/Commissary employees) may not have access to HQ USFJ's .mil website. These users may contact the OPR for electronic copies of publications otherwise available on the HQ USFJ publications website.

## 6. References.

6.1. Minutes of the 442nd Joint Committee Meeting, 28 August 1980.

6.2. Minutes of the 882nd Joint Committee Meeting, 3 April 2003.

6.3. Minutes of the 883rd Joint Committee Meeting, 15 May 2003.

6.4. USFJ Instruction 31-205, 1 Nov 2020.

6.5 DTR Part II, Chapter 205, 11 July 2022.



JAMES B. WELLONS  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Commander