To APAA Anti-Counterfeit Committee

APAA JAPAN COUTRY REPORT 2026

Japanese Group Anti-Counterfeiting Study Committee

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I. Court case

Recent court decisions of interest are summarized below.

(1) TRIPP TRAPP: Japan's Supreme Court on Applied Art

With respect to the copyrightability of works of applied art, four competing approaches have traditionally existed: (i) the fine-art equivalence approach, which requires an artistic quality that would justify treating the work as equivalent to a work of fine art; (ii) the separability approach, under which copyrightability is recognized where the elements relating to a utilitarian purpose or function can be conceptually or physically separated from those constituting creative expression; (iii) the aesthetic-appreciation approach, which requires, in addition to such separability, aesthetic characteristics that make the work an object of aesthetic appreciation; and (iv) the non-differentiation approach, under which no requirements beyond those applicable to works generally are imposed, so that creativity alone is sufficient. Although the lower courts traditionally tended to follow approach (i), most subsequent decisions followed approach (iii) since it was adopted by the Intellectual Property High Court in its 2014 judgment in the Fashion Show Case. The present case was the third lawsuit concerning the “Tripp

Trapp" children's chair. Approaches (i), (iii), and (iv) were adopted in the two previous cases and by the lower courts in the present case, with differing outcomes.

On April 24, 2026, the Supreme Court expressly rejected approach (iv) on the ground that the Copyright Act and the Design Act serve distinct roles in protecting intellectual property. Without using the term "applied art," the Supreme Court then defined a "mass-produced utilitarian article" as "an article that is mass-produced and is intended to be put to practical use in everyday life" and established the rule that such an article constitutes a work of art if "the shape or other features of the article, as a whole or in part, can, conceptually, be perceived as a creative expression of thoughts or sentiments distinct from its function-derived elements."
This rule may be regarded as close to approach (ii), as it asks whether the relevant features are conceptually separable from the article's function, although it does not require physical separability. With respect to the chair at issue, the Supreme Court denied copyright protection, holding that its shape and other features could be perceived only as elements deriving from its function as a children's chair.

In his supplementary opinion, Justice Ojima explained that the Court's opinion avoided the term "aesthetic appreciation" because it might create the mistaken impression that a high degree of creativity or artistic merit was required, and because it would be inappropriate for courts to determine whether an article was worthy of aesthetic appreciation. Nevertheless, as the supplementary opinion itself acknowledged, the rule articulated by the Court remains highly abstract, and its application in specific cases will have to be clarified through future case law.

It should be noted that the judgment addressed only issues arising under the Copyright Act. The protection of designs for mass-produced utilitarian articles lies at the intersection of the Copyright Act, the Design Act, the Trademark Act, and the Unfair Competition Prevention Act. This judgment may be understood as delineating the outer limits of copyright protection as shaped by the Design Act.

Plaintiff's Product "TRIPP TRAPP"	Defendant's Product 1 "Choice Kids"	Defendant's Product 2 "Choice Baby"
		

(2) Zoom Corporation v. Zoom Communications Inc.

i) Case Overview

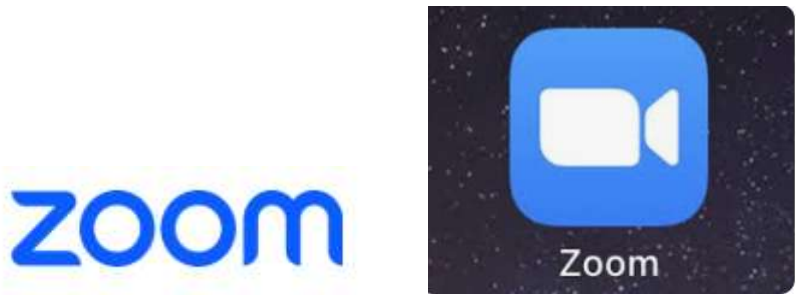
Case No. Reiwa 3 (Wa) No. 30910 | Tokyo District Court, Civil Div. 29 | April 24, 2026.

Plaintiff: Zoom Corporation (Japan) — music equipment maker; owner of stylized "ZOOM" trademark (Reg. No. 4940899, Class 9: computer programs, reg. 2006).

Plaintiff's registered trademark for "computer software etc." in Class 9.

Defendant: Zoom Communications Inc. (US, fka Zoom Video Communications) — provider of the "Zoom" web conferencing platform (est. 2011).

Defendant's mark:



ii) Legal Issues

Plaintiff sought injunctive relief (Trademark Act Art. 36) and ¥300 million in damages (tort/unjust enrichment). Key issues: (1) trademark similarity; (2) goods/services similarity; (3) likelihood of confusion in light of trade circumstances; (4) availability of injunction; (5) defenses (generic name, abuse of rights); (6) damages calculation and limitation period.

iii) Court's Holding

Injunction: DENIED. Damages: AWARDED — ¥166,219,358 (approx. USD 1.1M) + 3% interest. Infringement found for February 2016–June 2020 only. From July 2020 onward, no infringement because the defendant's acquired post-COVID fame eliminated likelihood of confusion.

iv) Key Reasoning

Trademark Similarity: Despite high stylization, plaintiff's mark is recognizable as "ZOOM." Identical pronunciation ("zuumu") and concept. Marks held similar.

Goods/Services: Defendant's downloadable conferencing app falls within "computer programs" (Class 9); cloud-based SaaS also found similar. **Temporal Division (critical):** Before July 2020, defendant's mark lacked widespread recognition in Japan—confusion existed, infringement found. From July 2020, COVID-19 drove explosive adoption; brand recognition reached 74.7% among Japanese consumers. Court held "trade circumstances" ("torihiki no jijō"—a factor in Japan's confusion analysis) need not be limited to permanent conditions; specific temporal facts like rapidly acquired

fame are admissible.

Injunction Standard: Assessed at oral argument closure (Jan. 2026). By then, defendant was already famous—no ongoing infringement, no basis for injunction.

Damages: Calculated under Art. 38(3) (reasonable royalty) at 2.7% of defendant's sales. Tort claims partially time-barred; awarded as unjust enrichment for the full Feb 2016–June 2020 period.

II Other Developments

1. Protection of Voices in the Age of Generative AI

Since APAA e-Newsletter Issue No. 54, "Legal Protection of Voices in Japan in the Age of Generative AI," two significant developments have occurred: the publication of a Ministry of Justice study group report and a court decision in the lawsuit brought by voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda. Both are outlined below.

(1) Ministry of Justice Study Group Report

In August 2026, the Civil Affairs Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Justice published the final report of the Study Group on Civil Liability for Unauthorized Use of Likenesses, Voices, and Similar Personal Attributes (chaired by Professor Yoshiyuki Tamura). The report provides interpretive guidance under existing statutes and case law regarding unauthorized use by generative AI. The following summarizes the report's treatment of voice protection under both the right of publicity and the right not to have one's voice used without authorization.

(i) Legal Status of the Voice

A person's voice constitutes identifying information and is a symbol of that individual's personality. Accordingly, it falls within the category of "name, likeness, etc." referred to in the Supreme Court's Pink Lady decision (Sup.

Ct., Feb. 2, 2012). Therefore, a voice is protected under both: (i) the right of publicity (protecting commercial value), and (ii) the right not to have one's voice used without authorization (protecting personal and emotional interests). There was no disagreement among the members of the study group on this point. The two rights protect different legal interests and are capable of coexisting.

(ii) Determining Infringement of the Right of Publicity

- Attractiveness to Customers (Customer-Drawing Power): It is sufficient that the voice itself has promotional or commercial appeal. It is not necessary that the individual's name or likeness be widely known. For example, the voice of a voice actor associated with a popular fictional character may possess such value.
- Use of the Individual's Voice: Whether a voice is identified as that of a particular individual should be assessed comprehensively, taking into account both the similarity of vocal characteristics and singing style, as well as additional contextual information such as references to "AI Singer X" or the name of a character associated with the person. Voiceprint analysis is merely one factor in the assessment. Voice impersonations are generally non-infringing unless they create the false impression that the voice actually belongs to the individual concerned.
- Three Categories of Infringement: Under the Pink Lady decision, the following uses may infringe the right of publicity where directed exclusively toward exploiting the commercial value of the protected attribute:

    - Category 1: Use of a likeness or similar attribute itself as an independent object of appreciation in a product (e.g., photographs or gravure images).
    - Category 2: Use of a likeness or similar attribute affixed to products for the purpose of product differentiation (e.g., character merchandise such as T-shirts and mugs).
    - Category 3: Use of a likeness or similar attribute in advertising for goods or services (e.g., television advertisements, web

advertisements, or impersonation-based advertisements).

For voices, voice stamps, audiobooks, AI-generated cover songs, narrations, and talking alarm clocks fall within Category 1 (or Category 2 if "affix" is broadly interpreted as "use"). Advertising narrations and impersonation advertisements fall within Category 3. The report notes that differing views on the classification of voices embedded in products are unlikely to affect the ultimate legal outcome.

As remedies for infringement of the right of publicity, a claimant may seek damages equivalent to a reasonable licensing fee (by analogy to Article 114 of the Copyright Act) and injunctive relief. In principle, standing belongs to the individual concerned, although an exclusive licensee may potentially pursue claims through theories of interference with contractual rights or subrogation. The report does not reach consensus on whether the right is transferable or inheritable.

(iii) Protection as a Personality Right

The standard for determining infringement is the same as that applied to portrait rights, namely whether the use exceeds the level that an individual must reasonably tolerate. In cases involving obscene audio recordings, protected interests include personal dignity and the peaceful enjoyment of private life. Whether the use was made for profit and whether the individual is a public figure generally do not materially affect the outcome.
As remedies for infringement of the right not to have one's likeness or voice used without authorization, a claimant may seek compensation for emotional distress and injunctive relief. Only the individual whose voice or likeness is at issue has standing to bring such claims. These rights are neither transferable nor inheritable.

(2) Kenjiro Tsuda Case

(i) Background

Kenjiro Tsuda, a well-known voice actor roles include Kento Nanami in

Jujutsu Kaisen, sued TikTok Pte. Ltd., the Singapore-based operator of TikTok, seeking removal of videos allegedly containing AI-generated narrations imitating his voice.

Filed in November 2025, the lawsuit concerned 188 videos posted by an unidentified user between July 2024 and September 2025. The videos combined images and subtitles with narration on urban legends, paranormal phenomena, and similar trivia. As of November 2025, the account had over 210,000 followers, and individual videos had thousands to tens of thousands of likes.

Mr. Tsuda alleged that the narrations attracted viewers by imitating his distinctive vocal characteristics and sought removal under Article 3 of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act and his right of publicity. The defendant argued that the narrations used a generic male voice, were insufficiently similar to his voice, and were unlikely to cause confusion.

(ii) Judgment

The Tokyo District Court (September 30, 2026, Case No. 2025 (Wa) 70635) stated the following regarding an injunction based on the right of publicity:

"A person's voice, like that person's likeness, may be regarded as a symbol of the individual's personality. Accordingly, the unauthorized use of a performer's voice, for example, constitutes infringement of the right of publicity where the voice possesses customer-drawing power capable of promoting the sale of goods or services and where the use is directed exclusively toward exploiting that customer-drawing power."

However, because the videos at issue had already been removed by the time oral proceedings concluded, the court dismissed the request for removal.

(iii) Significance of the Decision

Although the claim was dismissed, this is the first judicial ruling in Japan expressly recognizing that a person's voice, like their likeness, may be protected under the right of publicity. The court applied the Pink Lady Case's "exclusive exploitation of customer-drawing power" test to voices, consistently with the Ministry of Justice report.

Because the videos had already been removed, the court did not determine their unlawfulness or the Defendant's legal responsibility. Unresolved issues include the standards for assessing voice similarity, proof of intent to

exploit customer-drawing power, and platform operators' content-removal obligations. Further case law will be needed.

2. The Intellectual Property Strategic Plan 2026,

The Intellectual Property Advancement Plan 2026 builds on the 2025 Plan and the new international standardization strategy, drawing on interministerial coordination and expert discussions. To strengthen Japan's international competitiveness and address societal challenges, it emphasizes five priorities: placing intellectual property and intangible assets at the core of corporate management and national strategy; adapting IP protection to the era of generative AI and other technological advances; integrating international standardization with growth strategies; advancing the content strategy through investment in growth; and expanding Cool Japan overseas to drive earnings. The Plan organizes its priority measures around the creation, protection and utilization of IP. Reflecting technological advances and recent domestic and international developments, it identifies current challenges and policy directions and reviews progress toward established targets. The notable key objects pertaining to anti-counterfeiting are as follows.

(i) Piracy Trends and Progress

Infringement of Japanese manga, animation, films, music and games is expanding across borders. Operators, servers and domain registrations in different jurisdictions, services enabling anonymity, and domain hopping increasingly obstruct identification of operators. Overseas sites serving overseas audiences are also causing growing harm, particularly in Vietnam and Indonesia; the Plan stresses the need for government-led international action alongside private efforts.

The Plan cites estimates by the Content Overseas Distribution Association (CODA) showing that online piracy losses rose from JPY 2.0 trillion in 2022 to JPY 5.7 trillion in 2025, approximately threefold in three years. Counterfeit character merchandise, surveyed for the first time, accounted for a further JPY 4.7 trillion in 2025, bringing the combined estimate to

approximately JPY 10.4 trillion. Exchange-rate and price changes contributed substantially to the increase, alongside growth in internet and piracy users and the wider global reach of Japanese content.
Monthly visits to the ten leading publication piracy sites targeting Japan approached 600 million in December 2024, exceeding the previous worst period. Following site closures, visits fell below 100 million in December 2025 and stayed below that level through March 2026, when Figure 22 shows approximately 63 million visits. Thus, more than 60 million visits remained. The Plan compares this progress with the 2025 KPI of reducing domestic access to publication piracy, for which approximately 100 million had been the lowest level in the preceding five years.

(ii) Counterfeiting Trends and Progress

Expanding e-commerce and diversified logistics sustain cross-border counterfeit trade, threatening legitimate businesses' competitiveness and consumers' safety and confidence. The Plan calls for coordinated measures at the manufacturing, distribution and import stages.
Customs import suspensions of goods infringing intellectual property rights numbered 31,760 in 2025, down 3.8% from 33,019 in 2024, but exceeded 30,000 for the third consecutive year. Figure 23 also shows approximately 764,000 items suspended in 2025, compared with 1.297 million in 2024. Intercepted goods continue to include water purifier cartridges, batteries, earphones and automobile accessories that may endanger health or safety.
Counterfeit distribution through fraudulent advertisements on social media and other online services is increasing rapidly. Advertisers impersonate rights holders or licensees, claim to offer genuine goods and direct users to individual transactions. Targeting based on personal attributes or browsing histories makes detection and removal difficult for rights holders. Destinations may sell counterfeit, unrelated or unbranded goods, or facilitate phishing, causing consumer harm and damage to brand value.

(iii) Initiatives Already Taken

In order to strengthen cross-ministerial initiatives that facilitate proactive measures by private entities, the "Public-Private Working-Level Liaison

Meeting for Anti-Piracy Measures" has been established. This meeting consists of practitioners from private organizations engaged in anti-piracy activities, alongside representatives from pertinent government ministries and agencies. It functions as a platform for sharing up-to-date information and examining connections to specific countermeasures. To date, the meeting has been convened four times. Organizations such as CODA and the Japan Publisher’s Manga Anti-Piracy Conference (JPMAC), in collaboration with the publishing and IT industries as well as experts, are advancing activities including enforcement, international rights protection, and requests for cooperation at international conferences.

In September 2025, CODA filed a criminal complaint with Chinese public security authorities at Japanese publishers' request. Subsequently, following searches conducted in November of the same year, the world's largest manga piracy site was shut down. CODA opened its Vietnam Center on April 1, 2026, in cooperation with a local law firm. The Plan also notes the November 2025 Tokyo District Court judgment finding that Cloudflare's provision of content delivery network (CDN) services to manga piracy sites constituted assistance in copyright infringement, and calls for continued attention to private-sector developments in light of such judgments. In Vietnam, the operator of the piracy site and app which had been distributing Japanese content without authorization, was criminally charged in July 2026. CODA also cooperated with the investigation, and the case is noteworthy as a concrete development in cross-border rights enforcement.

For counterfeits, the Government has improved Customs enforcement, encouraged rights-holder information and import suspension applications, and publicized regulatory changes to agencies, businesses and consumers. In February 2026, the Japan Patent Office presented a JETRO survey commissioned in fiscal year 2024 on fraudulent advertisements at the APEC Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group meeting in China, attracting considerable interest. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications issued Article 26 guidelines under the Information Distribution Platform Act, effective in April 2025, illustrating information that may infringe trademarks or otherwise violate the law. In fiscal year 2025, the International Intellectual Property Protection Forum (IIPPF) established its working group on fraudulent social media advertising to share company countermeasures and cooperate with platforms. Fraudulent advertisements of this kind are

characteristically cross-border. Targeted advertising and similar techniques make them difficult for rights holders to detect and address, while advertisers, platforms and destination sites may be located in multiple countries. Beyond facilitating counterfeit sales, they can also cause consumer harm through phishing and similar schemes. Individual intellectual property enforcement in a single country is therefore unlikely to be sufficient. In addition to cooperation with platform operators, international coordination among the authorities and rights holders in the countries concerned is important.

(iv) Policy Directions

Coordination, Awareness and Monitoring

The Plan calls for coordinated implementation through the Liaison Meeting and annual roadmap updates. Awareness activities should discourage the purchase and acceptance of piracy and counterfeits, including inadvertent viewing that generates profits for infringers. They include domestic and overseas warnings about fraudulent advertisements. Further public-private efforts should formalize social media platforms' countermeasures and advance international cooperation and consumer education. AI-based detection will be used to survey overseas piracy, while practical automation of rights enforcement will be examined. Damage will be monitored continuously, including the feasibility of estimating losses separately for cross-border distribution, including to Japan, and distribution confined to the host country.

Online Intermediaries

The Government will promote rights-holder cooperation with service providers and support enforcement seeking removal or suppression of piracy-related search results and cessation of CDN services to piracy sites. It will engage domain providers, monitor new top-level domains and promote sharing of expertise for international action. The Information Distribution Platform Act will be implemented appropriately to secure faster removal responses and operational transparency by large-scale platformers. Overseas mechanisms for restricting access to piracy sites are also among the

responses identified in the Plan.

International and Legal Enforcement

Measures include engagement through WIPO, bilateral consultations and ICANN; cooperation with foreign authorities; international investigative assistance; and digital forensics with private-sector cooperation. Vietnam and Indonesia are priorities for stronger enforcement, local response bases and legitimate distribution. An international consortium involving enforcement and diplomatic authorities and private participants will share practices, coordinate awareness and support Japanese rights holders' cross-border enforcement. For overseas sites serving local audiences, measures include high level engagement by leaders and foreign ministers, official development assistance, local-language outreach through overseas missions, consideration of incentives for information on piracy sites, and promotion of legitimate Japanese content overseas.

Based on the interpretation that criminal penalties under Japanese copyright law may be applicable to overseas websites, the Plan promotes investigations utilizing frameworks such as cooperation with rights-holder organizations, relevant government ministries, and international mutual assistance in criminal matters, particularly in cases where there is a close connection with Japan, such as transmissions directed toward the Japanese public. It calls for publicizing how existing proceeds-of-crime and organized-crime rules, and civil claims, apply to piracy advertising revenue. Stronger evidence-gathering procedures will be examined, including possible extension of the court-ordered inspection system to copyright and trade secrets and the handling of overseas evidence.

Border Measures and Brand Protection

In response to the surge in small import consignments, Customs' enforcement methods and capacity will be fundamentally reformed to enable comprehensive cargo inspection, alongside strict inter-agency border enforcement and publicity to avoid unforeseen harm to bona fide importers. Following the expansion of Customs enforcement under the amended Trademark Act, Design Act and Customs Act effective in 2022, measures

concerning other intellectual property rights will be considered as necessary. To protect Japanese agricultural, forestry, fishery and food brands overseas, measures include mutual protection of geographical indications, overseas market and e-commerce investigations, and a consultation service for suspected counterfeit products. Annex 14-B of the Japan-EU and Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreements will be amended to add protected Japanese agricultural products and alcoholic beverages. The listed policies are short- and medium-term measures, with the dedicated Vietnam and Indonesia initiatives designated for the short term.

III. Statistics

Customs Activities

The number of import suspension cases in 2025 was 31,760, down 3.8% from 2024. China accounted for 26,292 cases, or 82.8% of the total.

CHART I Import Suspensions by Country/Region of Consignment

Country/Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
China	21,885	20,461	25,271	26,604	26,292	82.8%
Vietnam	3,033	2,135	2,690	3,215	2,785	8.8%
South Korea	589	649	751	785	597	1.9%
Taiwan	209	1,427	630	43	451	1.4%
Hong Kong	335	325	318	520	428	1.3%
Malaysia	23	34	486	979	364	1.1%
Singapore	354	569	315	216	346	1.1%
Thailand	240	226	494	164	96	0.3%
Philippines	1,112	631	230	147	77	0.2%
Netherlands	126	190	13	13	46	0.1%
Other countries/regions	364	295	468	333	278	0.9%

Country/Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
Total	**28,270**	**26,942**	**31,666**	**33,019**	**31,760**	**100.0%**

Note: This table is based on the country/region of consignment and does not indicate the country/region of origin. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan, 2025 customs enforcement statistics.

CHART II Import Suspensions by Type of Intellectual Property Right

For each intellectual property right, the upper row shows the number of cases and the lower row shows the number of items.

Type of Intellectual Property right	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
Patent	174	280	230	267	253	0.8%
	27,429	34,631	34,127	237,802	33,905	4.4%
Utility Model	0	0	0	0	0	-
	0	0	0	0	0	-
Design	302	354	348	502	530	1.6%
	73,953	136,148	442,073	298,131	46,112	6.0%
Trademark	27,424	25,705	30,448	31,212	29,685	92.1%
	621,684	548,972	500,824	443,887	469,878	61.5%
Copyright	674	841	863	1,380	1,746	5.4%
	96,345	162,896	79,221	317,293	213,569	28.0%
Related Right (Neighboring Right)	0	0	0	0	0	-
	0	0	0	0	0	-
Integrated Circuit Layout Designs	0	0	0	0	0	-
	0	0	0	0	0	-

Type of Intellectual Property right	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
Plant Breeder's Rights	0	0	0	0	0	-
	0	0	0	0	0	-
Unfair Competition Prevention Law	0	0	0	0	1	0.0%
	0	0	0	0	40	0.0%
Total	28,270	26,942	31,666	33,019	31,760	100.0%
	819,411	**882,647**	**1,056,245**	**1,297,113**	**763,504**	**100.0%**

Notes: Where a single case involves more than one type of intellectual property infringement, the case is counted under each applicable right; items are counted only under the highest-listed applicable right. Accordingly, the sum of cases by right does not necessarily equal the total. Component ratios for cases are calculated using the aggregate number of cases by right. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan, "Import Seizures by Type of Intellectual Property" in the 2025 customs enforcement statistics.

CHART III Import Suspensions by Type of Commodity (Cases)

Commodity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
Clothing	9,088	6,963	10,401	11,774	10,660	30.0%
Bags	9,570	9,045	9,028	7,293	7,560	21.3%
Footwear	3,934	4,275	4,448	4,228	3,597	10.1%
Mobile phones and accessories	1,656	2,413	3,373	1,647	2,413	6.8%
Electrical appliances	326	576	468	565	1,936	5.5%
Personal	942	1,216	1,375	2,083	1,344	3.8%

Commodity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Component ratio
accessories						
Automobile accessories	232	265	829	1,388	1,257	3.5%
Caps	1,348	1,201	1,117	1,211	1,110	3.1%
Watches	1,672	2,362	1,703	1,589	915	2.6%
Household goods	195	372	695	886	540	1.5%
Key holders	472	453	351	295	415	1.2%
Belts	606	520	486	522	375	1.1%
Eyewear and accessories	862	225	238	1,398	354	1.0%
Cosmetics	166	190	170	475	316	0.9%
Textile products	404	335	182	178	269	0.8%
Other commodities	1,724	1,729	1,910	2,267	2,420	6.8%
Total	**28,270**	**26,942**	**31,666**	**33,019**	**31,760**	**100.0%**

Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan, “Import Suspensions by Type of Commodity (Cases)” in the 2025 customs enforcement statistics.

Police Activities

In 2025, the police cleared 188 trademark infringement cases, a decrease of 34 cases (15.3%) from 2024. Of these, 149 cases (79.3%) involved the Internet. The police also cleared 64 copyright infringement cases, one case (1.5%) fewer than in 2024; 53 of these cases (82.8%) involved the Internet. Internet-related cases therefore continued to account for a high proportion of both categories.

CHART IV Numbers of Cleared Cases, Individuals and Corporations

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of cleared cases	485	458	385	334	308
Number of individuals cleared	547	520	468	433	371
Number of corporations cleared	40	25	41	53	41

Source: National Police Agency, Status of Cleared Life/Economic Crime Cases in 2025 (March 2026), Figure 27.

CHART V Breakdown of Intellectual Property Infringement Cases (2024 and 2025)

	Cleared Cases		Cleared Individual		Cleared Corporations	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Trademark infringement (counterfeit-brand cases, etc.)	**222**	**188**	**260**	**195**	**16**	**12**
of which Internet-related	179	149	207	159	12	7
of which Internet-auction-related	25	20	27	21	0	1
Copyright infringement (piracy cases, etc.)	**65**	**64**	**83**	**77**	**21**	**11**
of which Internet-related	52	53	64	64	17	9
of which Internet-auction-related	8	5	12	5	0	0
Others	**47**	**56**	**90**	**99**	**16**	**18**
of which Internet-related	16	27	26	47	4	10

	Cleared Cases		Cleared Individual		Cleared Corporations	
	2024	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**
of which Internet-auction-related	0	2	0	8	0	1
Total	**334**	**308**	**433**	**371**	**53**	**41**
of which Internet-related	247	229	297	270	33	26
of which Internet-auction-related	33	27	39	34	0	2

Notes: In 2024, “Others” comprised 36 cases under the Unfair Competition Prevention Law, five under the Plant Variety Protection and Seed Law, three under the Food Labeling Law, and one each under the Customs Law, Patent Law and Design Law. In 2025, it comprised 49 cases under the Unfair Competition Prevention Law, three under the Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act, two under the Law on Recording and Transmission of Information on Transactions of Rice and Other Grains, and one each under the Food Labeling Act and the Act on Prevention of Unfair Competition Involving Livestock Genetic Resources.

The Unfair Competition Prevention Law figures include 22 trade-secret infringement cases in 2024 and 38 in 2025.

Source: National Police Agency, Status of Cleared Life/Economic Crime Cases in 2025 (March 2026), Figure 28.

CHART VI　Trademark Infringing Goods Seized, by Country/Region of Origin

Country/Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Japan (Domestic production)	18,256	1,194	1,610	5,051	2,894

Country/Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
South Korea	789	5,858	467	895	507
China	60,077	54,076	57,309	63,750	47,380
Vietnam	184	436	2,117	222	38
Hong Kong	10	0	4	0	0
Taiwan	7	142	0	0	0
Thailand	9	4,799	0	0	39
Philippines	0	532	0	40	0
Others	69	427	25	80	0
Unknown	3,946	9,106	6,263	11,773	2,087
Total	**83,347**	**76,570**	**67,795**	**81,811**	**52,945**

Source: National Police Agency, Status of Cleared Life/Economic Crime Cases in 2025 (March 2026), Figure 29.