

➤ **Q: What is the power that the customs department has?**

A: The customs department has the following authorities:

- a. Inspect the transportation tools into or out of China, check on the goods and items into or out of China; detain those in violation of customs law or other relevant laws, administrative regulations.
- b. Examine the ID of the people entering or exit of China; inquire the suspect persons violating the customs law or other relevant laws, administrative regulations and investigate their offensive behaviors.
- c. Examine and copy the relevant contracts, invoices, accounting records, vouchers, records, documents, business correspondence, voice or video recordings and other materials in relation to the transportation tools, goods and items into or out of China; and may detain the transportation tools, goods or items related to the violation of customs law or other relevant laws, administrative regulations.
- d. Examine the transportation tools suspected of smuggling and the places suspected of hiding smuggling goods and items and examine the body of the suspected persons in the customs controlling area and the coastal area and border area near the customs. The customs may, upon approval by the director of the customs office directly under the state general administration of customs or the director of the customs office authorized by the state general administration of customs, detain the transportation tools, goods, items and persons suspected of smuggling. The detaining of suspected persons should not be over 24 hours, but it may be extended to 48 hours under circumstances.

Beyond the customs controlling area and the coastal area and border area near the customs, when investigating the case of smuggling, the customs may, upon approval by the director of the customs office directly under the state general administration of customs or the director of the customs office authorized by the state general administration of customs, inspect the transportation tools suspected of smuggling and the places except for residential houses of citizens suspected of hiding smuggling goods and items with the relevant persons concerned present. With the witness present, inspection may be conducted even without the relevant persons concerned present. The customs may detain the transportation tools, goods and items that prove suspected of smuggling.

- e. In investigating the cases of smuggling, the customs may, upon approval by the director of the customs office directly under the state general administration of customs, check

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and inquire the deposits and money remittance of the suspected units and persons in the financial institutions and post enterprises.

- f. Should the transportation tools or individuals entering or exit of China flee from the control of the customs, the customs may pursue to the areas. Beyond the customs controlling area and the coastal area and border area near the customs and bring them back for treatment.
- g. The customs may be equipped with weapons for performance of tasks.
- h. Other authority performed by the customs according to laws and administrative regulations.



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