

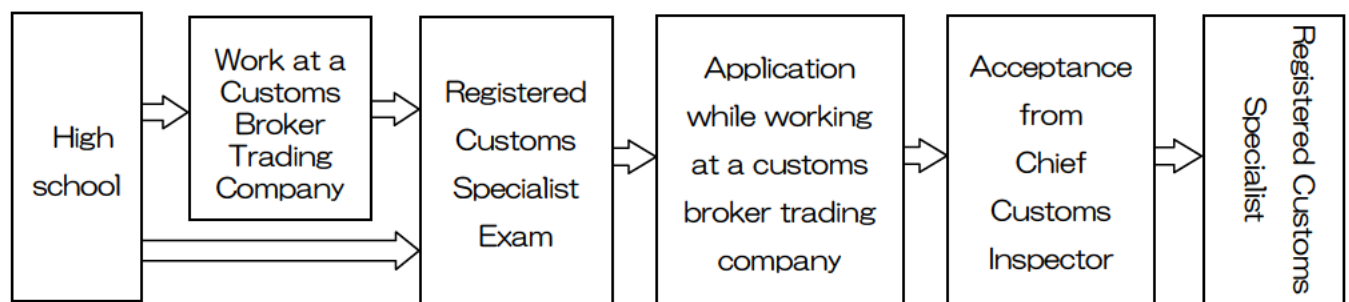


25 Registered Customs Specialist

In the trade industry, the only occupation that requires a national qualification is the registered customs specialist. Also known as custom brokers, customs specialists are required to apply for and complete the customs procedures for imports and exports on behalf of trading companies. Even if you do not intend to work in a customs broker trading company, having a customs specialist qualification is an advantage to work in other types of trading companies. Trading companies are increasingly performing customs procedures for their own company.

Due to the relaxation of trade regulations, imports and exports are increasing along with the demand for customs specialists. There are no prerequisites regarding academic history or age however after passing the exam, it is necessary to receive an official acceptance from a chief customs inspector at the customs broker trading company that you work at.

Becoming a registered customs specialist:



Prepare now:

Although there are no special prerequisites for taking the exam, only 10% of examinees pass on average therefore it is not an easily obtainable qualification. In order to study for the exam it is good to attend a vocational school or make use of a correspondence course. In addition, paying attention to international affairs and acquiring a wide range of knowledge is recommended. Customs documents are in English therefore it is important to improve your Japanese and native language skills.

Job prospects:

It is possible to work at land transportation or shipping companies, warehouse companies, air transport agency businesses, travel businesses or at port operators. The average annual income is upwards of 5.4 million yen.

Other job prospects:

Apart from customs broker companies, it is also possible to work at trading companies, manufacturers with a trade section, banks or insurance companies which handle foreign currency exchange or department stores or supermarkets which stock imported goods.

Tuition:

The tuition fee for studying one year at a vocational school costs upwards of 1 million yen, while the tuition fee for studying a short course or correspondence course costs upwards of 100,000 yen.