

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 9/22/2017

GAIN Report Number: JA7119

Japan

Post: Tokyo

Comments to MAFF on EU GI Proposals due Oct 11

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Approved By:

Christopher Riker

Prepared By:

Daisuke Sasatani

Report Highlights:

On July 11, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published a list of 71 proposed geographical indications (GIs) for which the European Union is seeking GI protection in Japan. The deadline for comments has been confirmed as three months from the date of the published list of proposed EU GI protections. Accordingly, the deadline for comments to MAFF is confirmed to be 23:59 (Japan time) on October 11, 2017, not October 9, 2017, as originally indicated, and comments must be submitted using the MAFF opinion submission form.

Keywords: Geographical Indication, MAFF, JA7098, JA7111, JA7119

General Information:

Following the announcement of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union and Japan in early July 2017, the Japanese government announced the initiation of a public comment period for 210 proposed European GIs. Included in these GIs are [71 agricultural products](#) under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

FAS/Tokyo had noted (see [JA7098](#) and [JA7111](#)) that comments on the 71 agricultural product proposals needed to be submitted in Japanese by October 9, 2017 (after a 90 day review period).¹ However, the deadline for comments has been confirmed as three months from the date of publication of the list of proposed EU GI protections. Accordingly, the deadline for comments to MAFF is confirmed to be 23:59 (Japan time) on October 11, 2017.

As previously noted, comments on the GI proposals for these agricultural products published by MAFF must be submitted in Japanese. Moreover, comments to MAFF must be submitted via the MAFF opinion submission form (see an unofficial translation in Attachment 1).

Comments for the attention of MAFF should be submitted:

In-person or via mail to:

Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan
Tel: +81-3-6738-6319
Fax: +81-3-3502-5301

In-person comments will be accepted by MAFF at the above referenced address from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 13:00 to 17:00 (except Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, year-end and New Year holidays).

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to MAFF via: gi-info@maff.go.jp.

Those that elect to submit comments by e-mail are asked to attach a digital scan of their comments to their message, either stamped with the submitter's seal or signed. Moreover, if submitting by e-mail, the date of arrival at MAFF will be considered the date of submission. See Attachment 2.

¹ Previous FAS/Tokyo reports indicated comments to the National Tax Agency on the EU's 139 wine, spirit, and other alcoholic beverage proposals are due on October 12, 2017. This information remains unchanged. See <http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=410290041&Mode=0>.

Attachment 1 –MAFF Opinion Submission Form (Unofficial Translation)

To: Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Date:

Submitted by:

Address:

Name/company & representative's name:

Phone:

I hereby submit my comment as below in accord with Article 25 of the Act on Protection of the Names of Specific Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foodstuffs (hereinafter "Act")

1 State which designation you would like to comment on

- (1) Public notice number and date prior to designation
- (2) Category of specific agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and foodstuffs
- (3) Name of specific agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and foodstuffs

2 Details of opinion

I believe the designation stated above under 1

- should be protected

Reason(s):

- should not be protected for the following reason(s)

- Item 1, Paragraph 1 of Article 29 applies

Reason(s):

- Item 2, Paragraph 1 of Article 29 applies

Reason(s):

- Other

3 List of attachments*

*You may attach documents in support of your comment

Attachment 2 –MAFF Submission Instructions (Unofficial Translation)

Information Made Public Prior to Designation

The foreign-made products being considered for protection under Article 28 of the Geographical Indication Act will be announced and public comments will be accepted during a three-month period. (The designation will take effect after procedures outlined in Articles 24 through 27 have been completed and the agreements pertaining to Paragraph 1 of Article 23 becomes law.)

Latest Information

The foreign-made products that are being considered for protection under Article 28 of the Geographical Indication Act have been made public. (July 11, 2017)

Information Made Public Prior to Designation

* The italicized names in parenthesis are for reference only. Click underlined publication dates for further information that has been made public. [Click here for details on how to submit a written comment {in Japanese only, an unofficial English translation follows on where to submit comments, and information on the form to use to submit comments can be found in Attachment 3}](#)

Submitting Your Comment

Written comment on the designation candidates is accepted for three months.

Submitting Comments

Where to submit your comment

Submit to:	Address	Business hours	Submit by:
Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,	1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda, Tokyo, 101-8950	Submittals are accepted from 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00 (closed on weekends, holidays)	Post, hand, or e-mail*

*E-mail submissions to gi-info@maff.go.jp

Format for Comment

[Comment Form \(WORD : 82KB\) {in Japanese, an unofficial English translation can be found in Attachment 3}](#)

Note:

- Attach a digital scan of your comment, either stamped with your seal or signed, if you choose to submit the form by email.
- The submittal date will be the day the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries receives your comment.