

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan Seeks Public Comments on Organic Restaurant Standard

Report Categories:

Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

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Report Highlights:

On September 14, 2018, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed a new Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) for organic restaurant management. MAFF is collecting public comments in Japanese until October 13, 2018 at [this website](#) (available only in Japanese).

Keyword: JA8078

General Information:

On September 14, 2018, Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed a new Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) for organic restaurant management. This proposed JAS standard illustrates requirements for organic food services including organic restaurants and retail establishments for ready-to-eat organic foods. The complete proposal is available at [this website](#) (available only in Japanese). Among other elements described in the proposal, the following are some highlights of this new standard.

Chapter 6.6.2.2. establishes a system for differentiating organic foods based on the percentage of organic ingredients on a weight basis as shown in Table-1. Organic food service providers will be permitted to use symbols of their own design (so long as it is of uniform shape, color and size) on menus and establishment publications that indicates the proportion of organic ingredients.

Table 1 – Number of Organic Symbols Based on the Proportion of Organic Ingredients

Category/ Percentage of Organic Ingredients	Numbers of Symbols Allowed for Use
95% or more	4
Less than 95%	3
Less than 80%	2
Greater than 0% but Less than 50%	1

In order to claim that food service is organic (e.g. an organic restaurant), Chapter 6.1 requires that the food service have a minimum of five items that contain a minimum of 80 percent organic ingredients (i.e., must have five items with two or more organic symbols).

The proposed standard also sets requirements for management, such as due diligence in procuring organic ingredients and maintenance of their proper storage separate from conventional items. Management is required to ensure that information provided to the public complies with this standard.

MAFF is seeking public comments to this proposal until October 13, 2018. Comment guidelines are available at this [website](#). MAFF requires that comments be written in Japanese and submitted through [this website](#), by postal mail (to the address in the guidelines), or by fax to 03-6744-0569 (+81-3-6744-0569 from outside Japan). Commenters are requested to provide their names, address, phone number, and e-mail address along with their comments.