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Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report lists major export certificates required by the Japanese government to export food and agricultural products to Japan. For more information on import requirements, see Japan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Narrative Report of December 2017.

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Tokyo, Japan for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in preparation of this report, information provided may no longer be complete or precise as some import requirements are subject to frequent changes. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary custom clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sales conditions are finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix)

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
1	Most food products, including beverages	Notification Form for Importation of Foods, Etc.	Notification of intent to import a food or beverage product*	Notifies quarantine authorities of intent to import food products so that they can determine product testing required	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
2	Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit, semi-dried fruits and nuts**, logs and green lumber with bark	Phytosanitary Certificate	Attestation to the absence of quarantine pests (injurious plants and animals)	Mandatory phytosanitary requirement for submission to the plant protection station of a designated port of entry as an attachment to the importer's filling of an application for Import Inspection of Plants and Import-prohibited Articles	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
3	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	FSIS Form 9060-5	Attestation of wholesomeness	Must be issued by the competent government	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and

				agency of an exporting country for imports of all meat. Mandatory inspection certificate to be submitted to the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
4	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	FSIS Form 9290-1	Attestation of regulatory compliance and regulatory equivalence	Must be issued by the competent government agency of an exporting country for imports of all meat. Mandatory inspection certificate to be submitted to the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
5	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	FSIS Form 2630-9, APHIS VS Form 16-4	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease in livestock and poultry	Must be issued by the competent government agency of an exporting country for imports of all meat. Mandatory inspection certificate to be submitted to the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
6	Beef and beef products derived from cattle aged 30 months or younger and slaughtered in the United States	FSIS Form 2630-9	Attestation that the products meet the requirements of the AMS LT-30 Quality Systems Assessment	Required to allow beef and offal to be imported into Japan.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

	(each accredited export establishment must provide a list of eligible products)		program		
7	Organic products (plants, including fungi and plant-based processed products) except organic livestock products, dairy, feed, and honey.	TM-11	Certifies that the product is of U.S. origin and meets USDA National Organic Program requirements	Required for organic products only if product is not already certified as meeting JAS organic standards by a MAFF-accredited Overseas Certification Body	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
8	Rice	No specific name	Must certify that the container meets the specifications and standards for packaging under the Food Sanitation Law (which includes requirements that the product does not contain lead or other dangerous substances)	This requirement is included in the contract for government purchases of rice and is a result of rice bags with lead levels that violated the Food Sanitation Law in 2002	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
9	Bluefin Tuna, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish	Bluefin tuna Catch document, statistical certificate for other tuna	Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the high seas and against illegal fishing trade	Mandatory requirement to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and to preserve the world's fish resources	Japan Fisheries Agency and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
10	Sturgeon Roe (caviar)	Export Permit	Attestation to the fact that the shipment is in full compliance	Protect Animal species in danger of extinction, using strict	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

			with the Appendix II provisions of the Washington Convention for Sturgeon Roe Trade	multilateral control on the international trade	
11	New types of processed products imported for the first time	No specific name	Documents (could be more than one) that include information on all ingredients, additives, and the manufacturing process	Required information allows the Japanese officials to evaluate a new product's compliance with relevant regulations and standards, such as the Food Sanitation Law	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
12	Wood Products	No specific name	Proof of the legality of wood products	Mandatory for government procurement, but voluntary for other usage (NOTE: Japanese importers may request documents proving legality)	Ministry of the Environment, or Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries/ Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism/ Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
13	All products	No specific name	It is strongly recommended that in the event that a product label does not clearly indicate additives, preservatives, coloring, spices, or flavorings, a certificate with descriptions of the ingredients	This is voluntary but recommended to provide clarification in order to avoid delays	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

			(names of chemical compounds, chemical names and international index numbers of the colors, etc.) be attached to each shipment in order to expedite import procedures		
14	Dairy products	APHIS Veterinary Certificate (differs according to end-use)	Several attestations including those related to foot and mouth disease, animal health, hygienic packaging, and intended end-use.	Mandatory requirement by Japanese animal health authority for U.S. dairy products exported to Japan.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

* Other import requirements are not listed on this report. For information on import requirements please see GAIN Report on Japan's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) dated December 2014.

** This requirement may vary depending on the final product condition (temperature, dryness level, in-shell).

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

(See "purpose" column above.)

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

(See matrix above for attestations required. See appendix 1 for example of documents)

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry

a. The original should accompany the product at the time of entry for all except numbers 6, 9, and 10 above. For these, a copy is permitted, but it must accompany the product at the time of entry.

b. For most certificates listed above, the certificate cannot be applied to multiple

shipments. The possible exceptions are numbers 8, 11, 12 and 13 above.

c. For numbers 1, 11 and 13 above, Japan will accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance.

Certificate Number 2 – Attestation to the Absence of Quarantine Pests

Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate issued by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Note: Ports equipped with plant quarantine facilities and equipment are designated as ports of entry for plants. Examples of approved ports are listed in the following website: http://www.customs.go.jp/english/procedures/advance_e/contact.htm.

Certificate Number 5 – Attestation to the Absence of a Risk for the Spread of an Infectious Disease

U.S.-based exporters should be aware that it is not uncommon for the government of Japan to place import restrictions on U.S. poultry and poultry products due to disease outbreaks, including avian influenza. Poultry products (meat and egg products) and live poultry (including day-old chicks and hatching eggs) originating from or passing through poultry disease quarantine areas are subject to such import restrictions. Applicants for export certification must determine which certification statement or statements apply to the product to be exported based on the date of slaughter. For more detailed information on exporting poultry products, please visit the following website: [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#). For more information on exporting live poultry and other birds, please refer to the current requirements and restrictions listed on the following website: [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate Number 6 – USDA Less than 30 Months Age Verification Quality Systems Assessment Program for Japan

FSIS Form 2630-9 as listed above. There is a very strict and detailed set of regulations for exporting these types of products, so please do not rely on this report alone. For more information please start by visiting the following websites: [LT30 Age Verification QSA Programs – Japan, Korea, and Taiwan](#) and [Export Requirements for Japan](#).

Certificate Number 7 – TM-11 (Organics)

As of January 1, 2014, USDA organic products being exported to Japan must be accompanied by an organic export certificate, referred to as a “TM-11”, which verifies that the product complies with the terms of the 2013 Organics Letter of Agreement between the United States and Japan. Also, since January 1, 2014, the restrictions on alkali-extracted humic acid and lignin sulfate stipulated on the previous TM-11 have been removed. For details, please refer to information posted on the following USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)/National Organic Program (NOP) website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/Japan>.

Certificate Number 8 – Certification that Container does not contain Lead

This requirement is a result of a 2002 violation in which rice bags contained lead levels violating Japanese regulations. No specific format is specified.

As an Administrative guidance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries continues to

require importers to provide a document that verifies that:

- The material used for the container (bag) was tested and meets the specifications and standards for packaging and container of the Food Sanitation Law (see); <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/containers/dl/04.pdf> and
- The container (bag) carrying the rice in question uses the same lot of the materials tested.

Certificate Number 9 - Bluefin tuna catch document or statistical certificate for other tuna

Depending on whether the imported tuna is fresh or frozen, two confirmations may be required:

- A) A pre-confirmation, which requires approval by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry;
- B) Customs confirmation at the time of customs entry.

Confirmation requirements for frozen tuna

Importers must submit the following documents to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry prior to importation:

1. Two copies of confirmation application.
2. A copy of B/L invoice or contract.
3. Original copy of Bluefin tuna catch document or statistical certificate for other tuna issued by a verification organization of an exporting country.
4. An original copy of a confirmation document to prove legal fishing issued by Fishery Agency.

Confirmation requirements for fresh and/or chilled tuna

Pre-confirmation is not required. Fresh or chilled tuna is shipped by air, and it will receive customs confirmation at the time of customs entry. Document described at 3) above is required.

Certificate forms are available at the following websites:

- International Trade Permit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/itp/index.html> .
- Export Certificate: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/gpea_forms/

Certificate Number 10 – Attestation of Compliance with the Washington Convention of Sturgeon Roe Trade

No special format specified. However the export permit should be issued by the competent government agency of the exporting country. Sturgeon Roe from fish farm is exempt from this requirement, but exporter must provide proof of aquaculture origin.

Certificate Number 11 – Information on New Products Imported for the First Time

There is no specific format for this information. Typical information that is needed includes a list of all ingredients, including additives, and a diagram or description of the manufacturing process. It is best to work with the importer to determine exactly what kind of information is required.

For more information on importing processed foods, please refer to the latest Food Processing

Ingredients report and the 2016 Japan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Report, which can be found at the following website:
<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Certificate Number 12 – Verification of Legality of Wood Products

For government procurement, the verification is mandatory. Although, there is no specific format, detailed information can be found on the Japanese Council for Tackling Illegal Logging and Promotion of Goho-wood website at <http://www.goho-wood.jp/world/guideline/en.html>.

For non-governmental use, the verification is voluntary. Although there is no specific format for non-governmental use, MAFF publishes a guideline (in Japanese only) at <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/>.

Certificate Number 13 - Certificate Indicating Ingredients in Detail

This is not required, nor is there a special format for this information. It is merely recommended that, if not already indicated on the product label or other shipping documents, the exporter should be sure to provide detailed information about ingredients, additives, preservatives, coloring, spices and flavorings. This may help prevent delays at the border. If you are going to test your products prior to the shipment, you may want to check the laboratories (aka “Foreign Official Laboratories”) registered with MHLW (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/yunyu/5/dl/a3.pdf>). The certificate of analysis from Foreign Official Laboratories will be accepted at quarantine stations regarding foods, food additives, apparatus, containers, packaging and toys exported from any countries or regions.

Certificate 14

Effective November 1, 2017, Japan requires a veterinary certificate issued by APHIS for U.S. dairy products. The specific certificate required differs according to whether the product is for human or animal consumption, as well as other factors such as whether or not the product contains other animal origin ingredients. For a full list of the required certificates, please visit the APHIS website at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/iregs-for-animal-product-exports/sa_international_regulations/sa_by_country/sa_j/ct_product_japan.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Apart from Export Certificates, products being imported into Japan must also meet a number of other requirements. Details of these requirements are contained in the FAIRS report updated each year by this office, as well as situational reports, which can be accessed online at: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Please feel free to contact OAA/FAS/Tokyo at agtokyo@usda.gov if you have any questions.

Appendix I. Notification For Importation of Foods, etc. (also can be found at <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/dl/1-3.pdf>)

Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Esq.

Name and address of importer (Or name of importing corporation and its address)

Notification Receipt Number	*1	Name	
Classification of Notification	Prior Notification / Planned Import	Address	
Code of Importer		(Telephone Number)	
Name and Code of Country of Production		Registration Number of Importer Responsible for Food Sanitation	
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturer			
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturing Factory			
Name and Code of Port of Loading		Date of Loading	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Name and Code of Port of Discharge		Date of Arrival	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Name and Code of Warehouse		Date of Storage	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
		Date of Notification	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Marks and Numbers of Cargo		Accident Brief Explanation (if Yes)	Yes / No
Ship Name or Flight Number of Aircraft		Name and Code of Submitter	

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y · N	Sanitary Certificate Number	
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.	
Description of Article						
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)						
Shipped Volume (Weight)				kg		
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as favoring agents are excluded for either case.)	*2
Kind of Package and its Code						*2
Registration Number 1						
Registration Number 2						
Registration Number 3						
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.						
Remarks						Stamp for Receiving Notification

Notes:

*1: Do not write here.

*2: When the article in the cargo includes food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink and regulated by the relevant statutes, describe the names of the substances used. When the article includes manufacturing agents in the additives, excluding favoring agents or food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink, write the names of the agents.

The seal of importer can be substituted by a signature of importer.

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y • N	Sanitary Certificate Number															
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.															
Description of Article																				
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																				
Shipped Volume (Weight)					kg															
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as favoring agents are excluded for either case.)		*2													
Kind of Package and its Code							*2													
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1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y • N	Sanitary Certificate Number															
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.															
Description of Article																				
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																				
Shipped Volume (Weight)					kg															
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as favoring agents are excluded for either case.)		*2													
Kind of Package and its Code							*2													
Registration Number 1																				
Registration Number 2																				
Registration Number 3																				
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Remarks															Stamp for Receiving Notification					