

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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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 Country Report of January 4, 2013.

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.

Please contact OAA/FAS/Tokyo at agtokyo@usda.gov if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions.

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 of beverage product.*	Notifies quarantine authorities of intent to import food products so that they can determine product testing required	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
2	Fresh vegetables and fruit, semi-dried fruits and nuts**	Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate	Attestation to the absence of noxious insects	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	Quarantine Inspection Certificate	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease in livestock	Mandatory inspection certificate to be submitted to the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan. Must be issued by the competent government agency of an exporting country for imports of all meat	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
4	Beef and offal derived from cattle aged 20 months or younger (each accredited export establishment must provide a list of eligible products)	FSIS Form 9060-5	Attestation that the documents are complete and that the AMS letter confirms that the export verification (EV) program requirements were met.	Required to allow beef and offal to be imported into Japan.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries & Ministry of Health, Labor and Family Welfare

5	All organic products except organic livestock products and feed	TM-11	Certifies that the product is of U.S. Origin, meets U.S. National Organic standards, and does not use alkali-extracted humic acid or lignin sulfonate other than of binder or anticaking agent.	Required for organic products only if product is not already certified as meeting JAS organic standards by recognized Overseas Certification Body.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
6	Rice	No specific Name	Must certify that the container does not contain lead or other dangerous substances	This requirement is mandatory and is a result of rice bags with lead levels that violated the Food Sanitation Law in 2002.	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
7	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
8	Sturgeon Roe (caviar)	Export Permit	Attestation to the fact that the shipment is in full compliance with the Appendix II provisions of the Washington Convention for Sturgeon Roe Trade	Protect Animal species in danger of extinction, using strict multilateral control on the international trade	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
9	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, Labor and Welfare
10	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 (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	This is voluntary but recommended to provide clarification in order to avoid delays	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

* 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 January 4, 2013.

** This requirement may vary depending on the final product condition (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 Requirements

- a. The original should accompany the product at the time of entry for all except for 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 6, 9, and 10 above.
- c. For numbers 1, 9 and 10 above, Japan will accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance.

Certificate Number 2 – Attestation to the Absence of Noxious 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.

Certificate Number 3 – Attestation to the Absence of a Risk for the Spread of an Infectious Disease

Form FSIS 9060-5 Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness, to be issued by USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service. For more detailed information on exporting poultry products, please visit the following website:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Japan_Requirements/index.asp#Poultry

Certificate Number 4 – Beef Export Verification Program Attestation

Form FSIS 9060-5 as listed above, but with extra attestation concerning EV program and AMS letter. 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:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3103526>

and

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Japan_Requirements/index.asp.

Certificate Number 5 – TM-11 (Organics)

Sample of certificate available online at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3017717&acct=nopgeninfo>.

The certificate must also have the following statement: “Products covered under this export certificate are not known to be produced with alkali-extracted humic acid and lignin sulfonate other than the use of binder or anticaking agent.”

In addition, the certificate must be issued by an accredited certifying agent of the USDA National Organic Program. For more information go to: <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/jas/specific/organic.html>.

Certificate Number 6 – 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 no lead was detected; and
- The container (bag) carrying the rice in question uses the same lot of the materials tested.

Certificate Number 7 - Bluefin tuna catch document or statistical certificate for other tuna

Confirmation system

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 get 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/ITP/index.htm>.

Export Certificate: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/gpea_forms/forms.htm.

Certificate Number 8 – 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 9 – 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 Food Processing Ingredients report [JA2527](#).

Certificate 10 - 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.

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 Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report updated each year by this office. The most recent update is dated January 4, 2013. The report can be downloaded on the FAS website by conducting a search for the Japan FAIRS report at the following website:

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Certificate Number 1. Notification For Importation of Foods, etc.

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. 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.)	
Description of Article						
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)						
Shipped Volume (Weight)				kg		
Usage and its Code					*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.)																				
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