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POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 4/12/2017

**GAIN Report Number:** JA7048

## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

### **Change to Country of Origin Labeling Requirements Notified**

**Report Categories:**

WTO Notifications

FAIRS Subject Report

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

On March 27, 2017, Japan notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) an “Outline of {a} draft amendment to the Food Labelling Standards concerning the place of origin labelling of ingredients of processed foods” (i.e., [G/TBT/N/JPN/551](#)). The draft amendment explains that the country of origin labeling requirement for ingredients will be expanded to include the heaviest ingredient in all processed foods domestically produced in Japan. Japan also published, in Japanese, an invitation for comments on the same day. The Japanese comment period ends on April 25, 2017, while the WTO’s 60-day public comment period ends on May 26, 2017.

Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments or concerns, by May 1, 2017, with the National Institute of Standards and Technology at [ncsci@nist.gov](mailto:ncsci@nist.gov) (and send a copy of any comments or concerns to [farah.naim@fas.usda.gov](mailto:farah.naim@fas.usda.gov) and [agtokyo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agtokyo@fas.usda.gov)).

## General Information:

On March 27, 2017, Japan notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) an “Outline of {a} draft amendment to the Food Labelling Standards concerning the place of origin labelling of ingredients of processed foods” (i.e., [G/TBT/N/JPN/551](http://www.wto.org/G/TBT/N/JPN/551) and [https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/TBT/JPN/17\\_1493\\_00\\_e.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2017/TBT/JPN/17_1493_00_e.pdf)).

The draft amendment explains that the country of origin labeling requirement for ingredients, which currently covers certain categories of processed foods, will be expanded to include the heaviest ingredient in all processed foods domestically produced in Japan. Japan also published, in Japanese, an invitation for comments on the same day (albeit for a more limited period). The Japanese comment period ends on April 25, 2017, while the WTO’s 60-day public comment period ends on May 26, 2017.

More detailed information was provided (only in Japanese) at:  
<http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=235080039&Mode=0>).

What follows is an unofficial translation of the chart of .pdf files referenced on the aforementioned Japanese website (although the chart has been unofficially translated, the links will direct you to Japanese versions of the documents):

### BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

#### Related Information

Comment Application Guideline and Related Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Outlook of Comment</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Format to Send Comment</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Attachment (Comparison Table for Before and After the New Rule (15 pages))</a></li></ul>
Related Information Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Major Revision Points for the New Rule (33 pages)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Supplemental Information (Concept of New Country of Origin Labelling System) (32 pages)</a></li></ul>
Location to Obtain Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consumer Affairs Agency, Food Labelling Division</li></ul>

Source: <http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=235080039&Mode=0>

### END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments or concerns, by May 1, 2017, with the National Institute of Standards and Technology at [ncsci@nist.gov](mailto:ncsci@nist.gov) (and send a copy of any comments or concerns to [farah.naim@fas.usda.gov](mailto:farah.naim@fas.usda.gov) and [agtokyo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agtokyo@fas.usda.gov)).