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Japan

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Japan Now Requires Bifenthrin Testing for U.S. Celery

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On August 16, 2016, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) issued an inspection order for U.S. celery. Effective immediately, Japanese border inspectors will hold all shipments of celery from the United States pending a chemical residue test for bifenthrin. MHLW will lift the inspection order after one year and the import of 300 shipments of celery that do not exceed Japan's maximum residue level (MRL) for bifenthrin, or after two years without a violation of the MRL for bifenthrin.

Keywords: JA6036, Japan, Celery, MRL, Bifenthrin.

General Information:

On August 16, 2016, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) issued an inspection order for U.S. celery after finding two violations of bifenthrin by different operators within 12 months. The two shipments of celery from the United States tested in excess of Japan's bifenthrin MRL of 0.01 parts per million (ppm) in July and August 2016.

MHLW's issuance of an inspection order for U.S. celery instructs border inspectors to hold all shipments of celery from the United States until residue testing confirms that the shipment complies with Japan's MRL for bifenthrin. The importer will be responsible for the cost of the test and the storage expenses pending the test results.

MHLW will rescind the inspection order at the after one year and the import of 300 shipments of celery that do not violate Japan's MRL for bifenthrin, or after two years without a violation of the MRL for bifenthrin.

The United States is the leading foreign supplier of celery to Japan -- supplying roughly 94 percent of Japan's imports and accounting for nearly 25 percent of Japan's celery consumption. U.S. exports of celery to Japan totaled 7,817 metric tons in 2015 (valued at \$7.3 million). The next largest foreign suppliers of celery to Japan were Mexico and Australia with 379 and 44 MT in 2015, respectively.