

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Proposes to Enforce Phytosanitary Certificate Requirement for Certain Agricultural Imports

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, WTO Notifications, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On October 17, 2019, Japan announced plans to strengthen enforcement of phytosanitary certificate requirement (PCR) for agricultural imports and to revise the PCR exemption list for imports covered by the Plant Protection Act. The measures have been notified to the World Trade Organization as G/SPS/N/JPN/684, and implementation is expected by June 2020. U.S. exporters of plant products to Japan should ensure compliance with revised phytosanitary requirements.

Background:

Japan's 1950 Plant Protection Act established quarantine regulations for agricultural imports. Under one such provision, phytosanitary certificates (PC) confirming absence of quarantine pests in accompanying products are required for imports to Japan. Article 5-3 of the Plant Protection Act identifies the following products as exempted from the PC requirement: (i) "dried plants of turmeric and the genera *Eucommia*" and (ii) "dried seeds of almond, cashew, coconut, pepper, pistachio, Persian walnut, and macadamia nut." Article 5-3 did not explicitly exempt bulk commodities, such as corn and wheat, from the PC requirement.

In October 2019, following a review of pest risk and inspection records, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed to revise Article 5-3 of the Plant Protection Act to include exemptions for more varieties/species of plants. At the same time, MAFF intends to strengthen its enforcement of the PC requirement for imported plants not covered by the revised Article 5-3 of the Plant Protection Act. The proposed exemption list follows:

- “1. Dried and compressed plants
2. Dried and chopped plants (excluding Senna stem (*Cassia acutifolia*), orange fruits and peels (*Citrus sinensis*) and cassava roots (*Manihot esculenta*))
3. Dried and crushed or smashed plants (excluding orange and tamarind fruits (*Tamarindus indica*) and cassava roots)
4. Dried plants that are not compressed, chopped, crushed or smashed.
5. Frozen plants (excluding shelled walnut)”

However, imports of the following species and plant parts need to be accompanied by PC, even if they fit within the first four categories above:

“ <i>Pinus pinea</i>	Leaf, branch and bark
<i>Eucalyptus stuartiana</i>	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
Egoma (<i>Perilla ocymoides</i>)	Seed

Cacao (<i>Theobroma cacao</i>)	Seed
<i>Castanea crenata</i>	Chestnut (excluding peeled chestnut)
Bubinga (<i>Guibourtia pellegriniana</i>)	Bark
Walnut (<i>Juglans</i> sp.)	Shelled walnut
Coriander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	Leaf and seed
Peruvian pepper (<i>Schinus molle</i>)	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
Sesame (<i>Sesamum indicum</i>)	Seed
Pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i>)	Fruit
Sugar pine (<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>)	Leaf, branch and bark
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Fruit
Rapeseed (<i>Brassica napus</i> ssp. <i>Oleifera</i>)	Seed
Senna (<i>Cassia acutifolia</i>)	Leaf
Tamarind (<i>Tamarindus indica</i>)	Fruit
<i>Castanea mollissima</i>	Chestnut (excluding peeled chestnut)
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Seed
Black cumin (<i>Nigella sativa</i>)	Seed
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Leaf and stem
<i>Pinus maritima</i>	Leaf, branch and bark
Caraway (<i>Carum carvi</i>)	Seed
Brazil nut tree (<i>Bertholletia excelsa</i>)	Nut (excluding peeled nut)
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Flower and seed
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Leaf and seed
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Leaf, branch and flower
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Fruit
Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	Leaf, branch and flower

Horse radish tree (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>)	Leaf and fruit
Chenopodiaceae	Seed
Gramineae	Seed (excluding malt)
Polygonaceae	Seed
Amaranthaceae	Seed
Leguminosae	Seed”

Japan notified this revision to the World Trade Organization as [G/SPS/N/JPN/684](#), and comment period is open until December 4, 2019 (see 2019 GAIN Report “Japan Proposes Amendments to its Phytosanitary Certificate Requirements”). MAFF intends to publicly announce the revision in December and, following a six months transition period, to start implementation in June 2020.

Attachments:

[WTO Notification.pdf](#)

[Detailed Revision.pdf](#)