

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan Revises Organic Law Allowing Imported Organic Feed

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

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Report Highlights:

Effective April 26, 2017, Japan accepts the use of imported organic certified animal feed from countries that share an organic equivalency arrangement with Japan, allowing imported organic feed to be used in the production of organic compound feed, or to be fed to organic livestock.

Keyword: JA7059.

General Information:

On Monday, March 27, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced the revision of the Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) Law for the feed of organic livestock. Effective April 26, 2017, Japan unilaterally recognizes imported feed that is certified organic from countries that share an organic equivalency arrangement with Japan (i.e. the United States, Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, and Switzerland) as certified for use in the production of organic compound feed, or for feeding to organic livestock. Interested parties in the United States considering export of these organic feeds to Japan are required to provide documentation of their certification under the USDA National Organic Program.

Documentation of organic certification is not required for the export of organic feed that is intended for non-organic use, such as the production of non-organic compound feed, or provided as feed to non-organic livestock.

Included below are provisional translations of the Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) law for organic ingredients and feed. Revisions to the law are indicated in red text.

(Notification No. 1607 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005)
(Provisional Translation)

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| Existing standard (Notification No.445 of March 27, 2017) | |
| <u>[Sections in red indicate revisions]</u> | |
| (Criteria of Production Methods) | |
| Article 4 The criteria of production methods for organic feeds are as follows: | |
| Items | Criteria |
| Ingredients | <p>Only the uses of materials described as below are permitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following materials, limited to those with inspection labels on their packages, containers or invoices. Notwithstanding the inspection labels, when organic feeds are produced, manufactured and processed by the same producer or manufacturer, and are inspected in accordance with Article 15 or 19-3 of the Law Concerning Standardization etc. of Agricultural and Forestry products <u>or in the case of equivalent-country-certified feeds specified (4)</u>, those organic feeds are permitted to be used as ingredients as well: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Organic agricultural products; (2) Organic processed foods (except for those including livestock products other than milk products; hereafter the same); (3) Organic milk; or (4) Organic feeds <u>(In cases where organic feeds are difficult to obtain, equivalent-country-certified feeds* are permitted)</u> <p><u>* limited to feeds which are graded in the countries prescribed in Article 37 of the Enforcement Ordinance of the Law Concerning Standardization etc. of Agricultural and Forestry products according to the grading system stipulated in Article 15-2, Paragraph 2 of the Law and are attached with a certificate** or its copy which includes the following matters and are issued by the governmental organizations, including bodies recognized as equivalent to such organizations by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</u></p> <p><u>** a certificate which is stipulated in Article 15-2, Paragraph 1; hereafter the same</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>① Name and address of the entity who has issued the certificate;</u> <u>② Issuing date of the certificate;</u> <u>③ Type and quantity of the feeds to be certificated;</u> <u>④ Name and address of the overseas organization which has performed the equivalent service to the certification of the Production Process Manager (the Production Process Manager pursuant to Article 14, Paragraph 2 of the Law) of the feeds; and</u> <u>⑤ Statement to the effect that the grading has been conducted on the feeds.</u> <p>2 to 4 (snip)</p> |

Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Livestock products

(Notification No. 1608 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005) (Provisional Translation)

Existing standard (Notification No.446 of March 27, 2017) [\[Sections in red indicate revisions\]](#)

(Criteria of Production Methods)
Article 4 The criteria of production methods for organic processed foods are as follows:

| Items | Criteria |
|---------|--|
| Feeding | <p>1. Feeds other than those indicated in 1) to 4) below shall not be provided.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Feeds for organic livestock. However, in case that more than 3 years have elapsed after the day when operators newly started raising livestock for producing organic livestock products, feeds labeled “under the conversion period” may be used to livestock provided that such feeds do not exceed 30% of the total organic feeds in dry weight, where the labeling complies with Article 5-2 of JAS for organic plants, Article 5-column2 of the JAS for organic processed foods, Article 5-2 of the JAS for organic feeds. 2) Natural substances or substances derived from natural substances without chemical treatment and that are feeds intended to provide minerals. However, in case that these feeds are difficult to obtain in a usual manner, feed additives intended to provide minerals may be provided. 3) Fish meals and algae without chemical treatment (Other than those irradiated or produced by recombinant DNA technology. The fish meals and algae that may be provided to livestock should be less than 5% of the feeds indicated in 1), in dry weight.) 4) Enzyme or microorganisms (except for those produced by recombinant DNA technology.) <p>2. For suckling domestic animals, maternal milk. However, in case of a shortage of provided maternal milk, natural milk other than maternal milk may be provided.</p> <p>3. Notwithstanding the provision 1 above, feeds produced in compliance with 1) to 2) below, may be used in case that the total feed of commercial feeds for organic livestock is no more than 50% of the average feed intake in dry weight. In this case, the domestic animals provided these feeds may be used to produce organic livestock products only when no less than 2 years have passed after satisfying the following criteria 1) and 2) in fields, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Being clearly divided so as to protect it from drifting and flowing prohibited substances from surrounding areas. 2) Satisfying criteria of “Seeds and seedlings to be used in fields,” “Manuring practice in field,” “Controls of noxious animal and plant in fields or cultivation sites,” “General management” and “Management of raising seedlings” indicated by the table in Article 4 of the JAS for organic agricultural products. <p>4. Notwithstanding the provision 1 above, equivalent- country-certified feeds* can be provided in case that organic feeds are difficult to obtain.</p> <p>* limited to feeds which are graded in the countries prescribed in Article 37 of the Enforcement Ordinance of the Law Concerning Standardization etc. of Agricultural and Forestry products, according to the grading system stipulated in Article 15-2, Paragraph 2 of the Law and are attached with a certificate** or it’s copy which includes the following matters and are issued by the governmental organizations, including bodies recognized as equivalent to such organizations by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p> <p>** a certificate which is stipulated in Article 15-2, Paragraph1; hereafter the same</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Name and address of the entity who has issued the certificate; 2) Issuing date of the certificate; 3) Type and quantity of the feeds to be certificated; 4) Name and address of the overseas organization which has performed the equivalent service to the certification of the Production Process Manager (the Production Process Manager pursuant to Article 14, Paragraph 2 of the Law) of the feeds; and 5) Statement to the effect that the grading has been conducted on the feeds. <p>5 to 7 (snip)</p> |