

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan to Eliminate WTO Beef and Pork Safeguards

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Trade Policy Monitoring, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Effective April 1, 2020, Japan will no longer apply the beef special safeguard and pork safeguard to imported products from member countries of the World Trade Organization. The government announced that it will eliminate these safeguards as virtually all imports of beef and pork are now covered by trade agreements with separate safeguard mechanisms. A special safeguard for pork will remain.

General Information:

On December 20, 2019, the Government of Japan announced its intent to revise the Temporary Tariff Measures Act to eliminate the beef special safeguard (SSG) and pork safeguard (SG) which had applied to all trading partner members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The change is expected to come into effect for Japan Fiscal Year 2020 beginning April 1, 2020. Following implementation of the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement on January 1, 2020, virtually all of Japan's beef and pork imports will come from trade agreement partners with separate safeguard mechanisms, making the WTO safeguards unnecessary.

The beef SSG last triggered in August 2017, raising the tariff on U.S. frozen beef from 38.5 percent to 50 percent from August 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 (see [JA8021](#)). Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, U.S. beef is instead subject to a volume-based country-specific safeguard with a lower maximum tariff. For more information, see the [beef fact sheet](#) from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) website.

The pork SG last triggered in August 2004. When triggered, the SG raised the gate price for imported pork from 524 yen/kg to 653 yen/kg for the remainder of the year (for more details see [JA9026](#)). Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, U.S. pork is instead subject to country-specific safeguards for pork with lower tariff increases that are eventually eliminated. For more information, see the [pork fact sheet](#) from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) website.

Japan announced that it will maintain its special safeguard (SSG) for pork as part of its commitments under the WTO Uruguay Round. The pork SSG last triggered in September 1996. When triggered, the SSG increases the ad valorem tariff from 4.3 percent to 5.7 percent for the remainder of the year on pork imports from countries that do not have a trade agreement with Japan (see [JA9026](#)). The United States will no longer be subject to the pork SSG.

Attachments:

No Attachments.