

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo ATO

### Japan to Implement 24 Hour Notice of Shipping Rule

**Report Categories:**

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and  
Standards - Certification

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**Report Highlights:**

Japan Customs will be implementing a 24 hour advance notice system starting March 1, 2014

**General Information:**

As announced in November 2013, Japan Customs has changed its Advance Filing Rules to require a vessel operator or freight forwarders to electronically submit customs information no later than 24 hours before departure of the vessel from a port of loading. If all of the required information is not available 24 hours before departure the cargo will not be loaded. This includes container and seal numbers. The new regulations will be implemented on March 1, 2014 at 12 a.m. in Japan.

The United States and several other countries have implemented similar regulations to improve security and prevent terrorism. Japan Customs is now revising its regulations to harmonize its regulations with other trading partners.

This rule change affects all maritime shipments, not just agricultural, forestry, or fishery shipments.

The Japan Customs page explaining the rule change can be found here:

<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/advance/index.htm>

USDA Japan recommends that all exporters consult with their freight forwarders for more details.