

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 04, 2022

Report Number: JA2022-0026

Report Name: COOL for Main Ingredient Requirements Now in Force

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On April 1, 2022, processed food manufactures in Japan must be in compliance with new country of origin labeling (COOL) requirements. The new rule requires Japanese food manufacturers to identify on the label of the product the country(ies) where the main ingredient, by weight, was harvested or produced. This requirement applies only to Japanese food processors and manufactures. Imported processed foods are exempt (only the country of manufacture of the finished product will continue to be required). Japanese importers bear sole responsibility for the development of labels compliant with Japanese food labeling regulations.

General Information:

On April 1, 2022, food manufacturers in Japan must be in compliance with new country of origin labeling (COOL) requirements for the main ingredient of domestically processed food products. Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) now requires manufacturers to list the country(ies) of origin of the main ingredient, determined by weight, on food labels of any processed foods manufactured in Japan. There are no required changes for the labels of imported, finished processed products. Importers remain responsible for complying with labeling requirements for imported processed products.

Previously, CAA limited requirements for COOL for the main ingredient to 27 food products. In September 2017, CAA expanded the COOL for the main ingredient for any processed food products manufactured in Japan and established a grace period through March 31, 2022.

If the heaviest ingredient is a fresh food product, manufacturers must display the country of origin. If the heaviest ingredient is a processed food product, manufacturers must display the country of manufacture. If the heaviest ingredient is from a single country, then manufacturers must include that country on the label. If the main ingredient is from two or three countries and combined, the label must include the supplying countries. Manufacturers should order the countries on the label by largest supplier according to volume contained in the product. If the ingredient is from more than three countries, the manufacturer is not required to list individual countries and can instead indicate the product is imported. For more details on the new requirements, see the [CAA website](#) (Japanese only).

For more information on Japan's food labeling requirements, please see [Japan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report](#). See [JA6044](#) and [JA7132](#) for more background on the COOL for the main ingredient requirements.

Attachments:

No Attachments.