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Japan

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

MAFF Calls for Comments on Revisions to Quarantine Measures for U.S. Fresh Apples

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) called for public comments on its proposed revision of quarantine measures against fireblight on U.S. fresh apples. The proposed revision will eliminate the requirements for a 10-meter buffer zone, orchard inspections at the small fruit stage for uninfected orchards, and chlorine dip surface disinfection of fruit. The export inspection to confirm the absence of fireblight on the fruit will remain in the proposed revision, and in addition the export inspection will now confirm the maturity of the fruit as well. MAFF will also remove the import ban on fresh apples from California. The deadline for public comments is July 30, 2005.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

On July 1, 2005 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced that it is accepting public comments on the proposed revision of fireblight quarantine measures for U.S. fresh apples until July 30, 2005.

The proposed revisions to the fireblight quarantine measures for U.S. fresh apples are as follows:

	Present Measures	Revised Measures
Uninfested Orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 meter buffer zone - Orchard inspection at small fruit stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate 10 meter buffer zone - Eliminate orchard inspection at small fruit stage
Fruit Surface Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chlorine dip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate chlorine dip
Export Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm the absence of fireblight on fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm the absence of fireblight on fruit - Confirm the maturity of the fruit (see Note)

Note: If a shriveled apple is found, it shall be cut and its maturity shall be inspected by using the starch-iodine method. If the test makes clear that the apple has not matured, any apple harvested in the same grower block of the shipment where the shriveled apple was found shall not be exported to Japan.

MAFF will remove the import ban on California fresh apples, since it has been confirmed that there are no quarantine concerns on fresh apples from California.