



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Japan

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Japan Releases English Version of 2006 Monitoring Plan for Imported Food

2006

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Report Highlights:

On May 25, 2006 Japan published an English version of its 2006 Monitoring Plan for Imported Food. This plan lays out how food will be tested upon importation to Japan.

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

On May 25, 2006, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) released an English translation of the 2006 Monitoring Plan for Imported Food. The monitoring plan relates to the period of April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 and provides much of the information that has been sought by exporters, as they face Japan's new regulations on pesticide residues. These new regulations, often referred to as the "positive list", were implemented on May 29, 2006 (See GAIN JA6011).

The monitoring plan, distributed to all the quarantine station in Japan, includes information about sampling methods, testing methods, directions for handling the samples, and what to do if a violation is found.

- Schedule 1 shows the total number and types of tests required per food group
- Schedules 2 and 3 show the general sampling methods for collecting a specimen
- Schedule 4 shows the number of tests for each chemical used on animal products and feed, broken down by product type
- Schedules 5 and 6 list the agricultural chemicals that will be tested for in foods after May 29th

Paragraph I.6.(1) specifically states that sampling should be random and not be biased towards any particular importer.

The 34 page report can be found at the following website:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/dl/4.pdf>

Additional background about inspection of imported foods entering Japan can be found at:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/index.html>