

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 04, 2021

Report Number: JA2021-0112

Report Name: EU Proposes 17 New Agricultural Products for GI Protection
in Japan

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

On August 2, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published a list of 17 products proposed by the EU for geographical indications (GIs) in Japan. Products include cheese, ham, olive oil, sausage, hops, baked goods, and seasonings. MAFF will hold a public comment period for the proposed GI designations through November 2, 2021.

General Information

On August 2, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published a [list](#) of 17 newly proposed geographical indications (GIs) for food products from the European Union (EU). The products include 5 types of olive oil, 4 types of ham, 3 types of natural cheese, 2 types of seasoning, sausage, bread, and hops. MAFF is holding a public comment period regarding the application of these 17 products through November 2, 2021. All comments must be submitted in Japanese. After the closure of the public comment period, MAFF will hold an expert committee meeting and then make a final decision on the designation of GIs for the products.

Table 1. 17 EU Agricultural Products Proposed for GI Protection

ID	Country	Name of Product	Type of Product	MAFF Category
96	France	Abondance	Natural cheese	6: Livestock Product
97	France	Huile d'olive de la vallée des Baux-de-Provence	Olive oil	9: Oil and Fat Product
98	France	Pont-l'Évêque	Natural cheese	6: Livestock Product
99	France	Sel de Guérande / Fleur de sel de Guérande	Salt	8: Seasoning
100	Germany	Dresdner Christstollen / Dresdner Stollen / Dresdner Weihnachtsstollen	Bread	10: Bread and Snack
101	Germany	Spalt Spalter	Hop/ Hop pellet	1: Agricultural Product 5: Ag Processed Product
102	Greece	Χανιά Κρήτης (Chania Kritis)	Olive oil	9: Oil and Fat Product
103	Italy	Monti Iblei	Olive oil	9: Oil and Fat Product
104	Italy	Pecorino Sardo	Natural cheese	6: Livestock Product
105	Italy	Prosciutto di Modena	Ham	6: Livestock Product
106	Italy	Salamini italiani alla cacciatora	Sausage	6: Livestock Product
107	Italy	Speck Alto Adige / Südtiroler Markenspeck / Südtiroler Speck	Ham	6: Livestock Product
108	Spain	Aceite de Mallorca / Aceite mallorquín / Oli de Mallorca / Oli mallorquí	Olive oil	9: Oil and Fat Product
109	Spain	Jamón de Trevélez	Ham	6: Livestock Product
110	Spain	Los Pedroches	Ham	6: Livestock Product
111	Spain	Montes de Toledo	Olive oil	9: Oil and Fat Product
112	Spain	Pimentón de la Vera	Paprika powder	8: Seasoning

MAFF GI System and Reciprocal Protection for EU GI Products

In 2015, the [Act on Protection of the Names of Specific Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foodstuffs](#) (GI Act) established Japan's [GI system](#) for agricultural and food products ([JA5008](#)).

Domestic and foreign products are subject to a registration process that includes both a public comment period and a review by an expert committee. As of August 2021, MAFF has registered 108 GIs for agricultural, forestry, and fishery products through this system.¹ In 2018, Japan amended the GI Act to limit the continued use of prior, good-faith terms that have since acquired GI designation to a period of 7 years ([JA8065](#)).

The GI Act was amended in 2016 and allows for reciprocal protection for products with GI designation in foreign countries. Unlike the domestically registered GI products, MAFF does not monitor compliance of products enjoying reciprocal protection in Japan. As negotiated in the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), MAFF has designated 92 reciprocal GIs for EU agricultural and fisheries products since February 1, 2019 (see [JA7151](#), [JA2020-0141](#) and [JA2021-0020](#)).

The National Tax Agency (NTA) administers GI protection for alcoholic beverages. On August 2, NTA published a list of 11 proposed GIs for wine products from the EU.

How to Submit Comments to MAFF

Comments on the 17 newly proposed EU GI designations must be submitted using the [submission form](#), be submitted in Japanese, and be stamped with the submitter's seal or signed. Comments for the attention of MAFF should be submitted in-person, via mail or via e-mail to MAFF by November 2, 2021.

In-person or via mail to:

Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan

In-person comments will be accepted by MAFF at the above referenced address, from 10:00 to 12:00, and from 13:00 to 17:00 (except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays).

Via e-mail to

gi-info@maff.go.jp.

It is needed to attach a scan of the submission form, stamped with the submitter's seal or signed.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Including Prosciutto di Parma, which completed the domestic GI registration process ([JA7118](#)) and excluding withdrawn Nishio Matcha ([JA2020-0046](#)).