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Report Highlights:

This report lists major export certificates required by the Japanese government to export food and agricultural products from the United States to Japan. For more information on Japan's import requirements, see the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Annual Country Report for Japan at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/home>.

Disclaimer:

This report was prepared by FAS/Tokyo Staff for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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Executive Summary

Japan requires official U.S. government-issued export certificates for meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, plants for cultivation, fresh fruit and vegetables for consumption, hay and straw, as well as for certain nuts, seafood, and organic products, among others. Beginning August 5, 2023, Japan requires the attachment of a phytosanitary certificate for products which were previously exempted (see [JA2023-0057](#)).

Beef, sheep, and goat meat and meat products require special certification under an export verification program. Original certificates should accompany the product at the time of entry for all government-issued certificates. Government-issued certificates cannot be applied to multiple shipments. Digital copies of the required export certificates, when available, may be accessed via the links in the descriptions in Section II of this report.

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required by the Government (Matrix)

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
1	Fresh vegetables and fruit, grains, beans, semi-dried fruits, certain nuts ¹ , logs and lumber with bark	Phytosanitary Certificate APHIS PPQ Form 577	Attestation to the absence of quarantine pests (injurious plants and animals)	Plant health	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)
2	Meat and poultry products	FSIS Form 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Certificate for Wholesomeness	Attestation of wholesomeness	Animal health, food safety	MAFF, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW)
3	Meat and poultry products	FSIS Form 9290-1 Certificate for Export to Japan	Attestation of regulatory compliance and regulatory equivalence	Animal health, food safety	MAFF, MHLW
4	Meat and poultry products transiting through a third country	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Meat and Poultry Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries	Attestation that container is sealed by USDA	Animal health	MAFF
5	Beef and beef products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Beef and Beef Products to Japan	Attestations of compliance with applicable USDA Export Verification Program	Animal health, food safety	MAFF, MHLW
6	Poultry meat and poultry meat products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products to Japan (different certificates available on FSIS Export Library)	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Animal health	MAFF

¹ This requirement may vary depending on the final product condition (temperature, dryness level, in-shell, etc.).

7	Ovine and caprine meat and meat products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Ovine and Caprine Meat Products to Japan	Attestations of compliance with USDA Export Verification Program	Animal health, food safety	MAFF, MHLW
8	Poultry meat etc. meals for pet food material	APHIS Veterinary Certificate (different certificate available on APHIS iREGS)	Attestation of wholesomeness / Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Animal health	MAFF
9	Dairy products	APHIS Veterinary Certificate (different versions according to end-use)	Multiple attestations including those related to foot and mouth disease, animal health, hygienic packaging, and intended end-use	Animal health, food and feed safety	MAFF, MHLW
10	Egg products	FSIS Form 9060-5EP Egg Product Certificate for Wholesomeness	Attestation of wholesomeness	Animal health, food safety	MAFF
11	Egg products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Egg Products to Japan (different versions according to disease outbreaks)	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Animal health	MAFF
12	Egg products transiting through a third country	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Egg Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries	Attestation that container is sealed by USDA	Animal health	MAFF
13	Shell eggs	AMS certificate	Attestation of wholesomeness / Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Food safety, animal health	MAFF

14	Casings	FSIS Forms (available on FSIS Export Library)	Various animal health attestations depending on the source material for the casings	Animal health	MAFF
15	Other livestock products incl. pet food/treats	APHIS Certificates (available on APHIS iREGS)	Animal health attestations for various animal products (primarily for non-human consumption)	Animal health	MAFF
16	Organic products (livestock, dairy and plants, including fungi as well as processed products and feed) except organic honey and alcoholic beverages	TM-11 (issued by USDA/ National Organic Program (NOP) accredited Certification Body which certified exporting products)	Attestations that the product is of U.S. origin and certified under the USDA National Organic Program	Compliance with the organic production standards of NOP	MAFF
17	Bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna and swordfish	Catch Document (bluefin tuna) or Statistical Document (bigeye tuna and swordfish) (issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA))	Attestation that product was harvested legally	Conservation of marine resources	Japan Fisheries Agency
18	Sturgeon caviar or parts	CITES export or re-export permit (issued by Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Attestation that the shipment is in full compliance with the provisions of Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Protection of endangered animal species	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
19	King, snow, and horsehair crabs	Certificate of Origin (issued by NOAA)	Attestation that the crabs are not illegal, unreported or undocumented (IUU)	Conservation of marine resources	METI

			from Russia		
20	Fresh Oysters	NOAA Health Certificate for Exports of fishery products or State of Washington Department of Health Statement of Licensure and Certification	Attestation that production and handling standards are equivalent to Japanese standards	Food safety	MHLW
21	Pacific saury, mackerel, sardine, and squid/ cuttlefish	Catch document by NOAA Seafood Inspection Program	Attestation that the product was harvested in accordance with U.S. laws and regulations.	Conservation of marine resources	Japan Fisheries Agency

Purpose of Specific Export Certificates

Certificate 1 – Absence of Quarantine Pests

Submission of Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate issued by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to the plant protection station of the designated port of entry is mandatory with an import request form. Additional specific attestations are required for products permitted under bilaterally agreed protocols requiring specific phytosanitary measures (e.g. fresh cherries, plums, nectarines, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, and in-shell walnuts from the United States) – see [MAFF’s Appendix to the List of the Import Prohibited Plants](#). Beginning August 5, 2023, Japan requires the attachment of a phytosanitary certificate for many products such as grains, which were previously exempted (see [JA2023-0057](#)). Imported plant products have to enter through a designated port or airport with a quarantine station (see list of designated ports in [Article 6 of the Plant Protection Law Enforcement Regulation](#) (available in Japanese only)).

Certificates 2 and 3 – Wholesomeness and Regulatory Compliance for Meat and Poultry

Fresh, frozen, or processed meat and poultry products exported from the United States to Japan must be accompanied by FSIS Form 9060-5 “Meat and Poultry Export Certificate for Wholesomeness” and FSIS Form 9290-1 “Certificate to Export to Japan.” These certificates are issued at the slaughtering or processing facility by a qualified USDA meat and poultry inspector. Export requirements are described in detail in the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#). In particular, Japanese quarantine officials check to ensure that the establishment name, number, and address listed on the certificates match the information contained in the [FSIS Meat, Poultry and Egg Product Inspection Directory](#).

Certificate 4 – Meat and Poultry Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries

Meat and poultry products transiting through a third country must be accompanied by the FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Meat and Poultry Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries indicating that the shipping container has been sealed by USDA. The certificate and USDA seal are required for all shipments that transit third countries, regardless of whether the transshipment was planned or not. More details are available on the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 5 – Letterhead Certificate for Beef and Beef Products to Japan

U.S. beef and beef products exported to Japan must be accompanied by a Letterhead Certificate issued by FSIS attesting to compliance with the appropriate USDA export verification (EV) program operated by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Starting May 17, 2019, establishments may apply for the new [USDA Beef EV Program – Japan QAD 1030J](#) which allows beef to be exported to Japan. These shipments must also be accompanied by the appropriate Letterhead Certificate issued by FSIS. A description of the specific requirements can be found at [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 6 – Letterhead Certificate for Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products to Japan

The Government of Japan may place import restrictions on U.S. poultry and poultry products due to disease outbreaks such as avian influenza. Poultry products originating from or passing through poultry disease quarantine areas may be subject to such import restrictions. Applicants for export certification must determine which certification statement or statements apply to the product based on the date of slaughter. More detailed information on exporting poultry products is available on the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#). More information on exporting live poultry and other birds is available on [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate 7 – Export of Ovine and Caprine Meat and Meat Products to Japan

Ovine and caprine meat and meat products exported to Japan must adhere to the requirements of the USDA Export Verification Quality System Assessment (EV QSA) Program for ovine and caprine meat exported to Japan. For more information, please review the AMS QSA [Bovine, Ovine and Caprine Export Verification Programs](#) and [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 8 – Poultry and other Meat Meals for Pet Food Material

Poultry or other meat meals used for pet food to be exported to Japan must be produced in accordance with U.S. domestic regulations and be accompanied by a certificate issued by USDA APHIS. More information on exporting meats for pet food is available on [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate 9 – Dairy Products

Japan requires a veterinary certificate issued by APHIS for dairy products imported from the United States. The specific certificate requirement differs according to whether the product is for human or animal consumption, as well as other factors such as whether the product contains other animal origin ingredients. The certificate for dairy products for human consumption was revised in March 2020 to reflect new food safety requirements under Japan's Food Sanitation Act (see [JA2020-0038](#) for details). For a full list of the required dairy certificates, please consult [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate 10 – Egg Product Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

FSIS Form 9060-5EP is required for all egg products exported from the United States to Japan. Please consult the [FSIS Export Requirements for Japan \(Egg Products\)](#) for more information.

Certificate 11 – Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Egg Products to Japan

The Government of Japan may place import restrictions on U.S. egg products due to disease outbreaks such as avian influenza. Egg products originating from or passing through disease quarantine areas may be subject to such import restrictions. Please consult the [FSIS Export Requirements for Japan \(Egg Products\)](#) for more information.

Certificate 12 – Egg Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries

Egg products transiting through a third country must be accompanied by the FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Egg Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries indicating that the shipping container has been sealed by USDA. The certificate and USDA seal are required for all shipments that transit third countries, regardless of whether the transshipment was planned. Please consult the [FSIS Export Requirements for Japan \(Egg Products\)](#) for more information.

Certificate 13 – Shell Eggs

Certain animal health and food safety attestations by AMS are required for shell eggs exported from the United States to Japan. For more information see the [AMS Shell Egg Export Instructions](#).

Certificate 14 – Casings

Casings and products using casings may require specific FSIS certification depending on the type and origin of the casing used. Please consult the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#) to determine which certificates apply.

Certificate 15 – Other Animal Products

For animal products not otherwise listed, exporters are advised to consult the [APHIS iREGS](#) website to determine which certificates and other requirements may be necessary for export to Japan.

Certificate 16 – TM-11 (Organics)

USDA organic products exported to Japan to be sold as organic must be accompanied by a TM-11 organic export certificate that verifies that the product complies with the terms of the [2013 Organic Equivalency Arrangement for plant products](#) and/or the [2020 Organic Equivalency Arrangement for livestock products](#) between the United States and Japan. TM-11 is not required if products are certified directly by a MAFF accredited Certification Body as meeting the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) for organic products. For details, please consult the [USDA AMS National Organic Program \(NOP\)](#) website. Currently, organic honey and alcoholic beverages are exempted from the attachment of TM-11 form. However, Japan will enforce organic labeling requirements for alcoholic beverages beginning October 1, 2025.

Certificate 17 – Bluefin and Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents and Swordfish and Frozen Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents

For imports of Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*), Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), and southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) from the United States, Japan requires [catch documents](#) following the format of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) or other regional fisheries management organizations certified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service². For frozen bluefin tuna, catch documents

² NOAA uses the ICCAT electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation ([eBCD](#)) system. International trade permit holders for highly migratory fish species who export or re-export Atlantic bluefin tuna are required to complete all relevant trade documentation in the eBCD system.

should be submitted to the Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) in advance (known as “prior confirmation”³), and again at customs clearance. For chilled bluefin tuna, prior confirmation is not required.

For U.S. exports of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and frozen bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), “[statistical documents](#)” certified by NOAA are required. For frozen swordfish and bigeye tuna, the “statistical documents” should be submitted to the JFA in advance (i.e., prior confirmation), and again for customs clearance. For chilled swordfish, prior confirmation is not required, and for chilled bigeye tuna, frozen/chilled other tuna species (e.g., yellowfin and albacore), and frozen/chilled other marlin species, neither catch documents nor “statistical documents” are required. For more information about export certification of seafood products, see [NOAA](#) website and [JFA website](#) (in Japanese).

Certificate 18 – CITES Export Permit for Sturgeon Caviar and Parts

For sturgeon caviar or parts exported to Japan, Japan requires a CITES export or re-export permit issued by the exporting country for sturgeon species in CITES Appendix II. All sturgeon caviar exiting the United States must be accompanied by a CITES export or re-export permit issued by the Division of Management Authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). In addition, caviar must meet CITES Caviar Universal Labeling requirements. [METI](#) requires prior confirmation if one imports caviar or parts of Adriatic sturgeon (*Acipenser naccarii*), Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), Sakhalin sturgeon (*Acipenser mikadoi*), or Kaluga sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*) from the United States.

Certificate 19 – Certificate of Origin for U.S. King, Snow and Horsehair Crabs

Since 2014, Japan has required the country-of-origin certificate when importing certain types of crabs in order to block illegal, unreported and undocumented (IUU) crabs harvested in the Russian Federation. NOAA issues the Certificate of Origin for U.S. crabs (see sample NOAA certificate on the last page of [METI’s memorandum](#) in Japanese). For imports of fresh and chilled king crab (Harmonized System code (HS): 0306.33-110), snow crab (HS: 0306.33-121; 0306.33-129) and horsehair crab (HS: 0306.33-140), importers need to submit the document directly to Japan Customs. For imports of frozen king crab (HS: 0306.14-010), snow crab (HS: 0306.14-020) and horsehair crab (HS: 0306.14-040), importers need to submit the document to METI’s Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Trade Control Department, Agricultural and Marine Products Office in advance of importation. Japan does not require any certificate for cooked and processed crabs from the United States (as long as they do not contain crabs from Russia).

Certificate 20 – Health Certificate on Fresh Oysters

According to the 2018 revision of the Food Sanitation Act, Japan requires a sanitary certificate for imports of fresh oysters (see details in [JA2019-0200](#)). As of September 2022, Japan allows imports of U.S. oysters from Oregon, Washington, Connecticut and New York. The oyster exporter must be listed in the [Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List \(ICSSL\)](#). MHLW accepts a sanitary certificate issued by NOAA for all eligible U.S. fresh oysters (see [JA2020-0140](#)) or an export certificate issued by Washington State Department of Health for fresh oysters harvested in Washington State (see [JA2020-0109](#)). Examples of accepted certificates are on [MHLW’s website](#). For information on the special food sanitation standard for fresh oysters, please see [JA2020-0194](#)).

³ “Prior confirmation” for some frozen tuna species is required based on the [Act on Special Measures for Enhancement of the Conservation and Management of Tuna Resources](#) (Japanese only). The Fishery Agency accepts electronic prior confirmation application.

Certificate 21 – Catch Documents for Imports of IUU Vulnerable Marine Species

Since December 2022, Japan has required catch certificates to import products containing marine species vulnerable to IUU fishing (see [JA2021-0006](#)). Japan has designated mackerel (*Scomber spp.*), Pacific saury (*Cololabis spp.*), sardine (*Sardinops spp.*), and squid and cuttlefish as IUU vulnerable species (see [JA2022-0040](#)). Japan accepts Catch Certificate issued by NOAA Seafood Inspection Program on seafood products containing U.S. IUU species ([JA2022-0107](#)). The Fisheries Agency posts the latest information about accepted certificates on its [website \(in Japanese\)](#).

Section II. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates

See matrix above for required attestations.

Section III. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

- a. The original should accompany the product at the time of entry for all government-issued certificates.
- b. Government-issued certificates cannot be applied to multiple shipments.

Section IV. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

None. Japan does not require certification/attestation of radioactivity.

Appendix I

Digital copies of the required export certificates, when available, may be accessed via the links in the descriptions in Section II above.

Please contact USDA Japan at agtokyo@usda.gov if you have further questions.

Attachments:

No Attachments