

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards  
Export Certificate Report

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

**Prepared By:** USDA Japan

**Approved By:** Alexander Blamberg

**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/>. While every possible care has been taken in preparation of this report, information provided may no longer be complete or precise as some import requirements are subject to frequent changes. U.S. exporters should ensure that all necessary custom clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through foreign importers before the sales conditions are finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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

	<b>Product(s)</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
1	Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit, semi-dried fruits, certain nuts <sup>1</sup> , logs and green lumber with bark	Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS PPQ Form 577)	Attestation to the absence of quarantine pests (injurious plants and animals)  Attestation of the temperature of freezing (at least zero degrees Fahrenheit) for frozen vegetables and fruit	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

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

6	Poultry meat and poultry meat products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products to Japan	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Animal health	MAFF
7	Ovine and caprine meat and meat products	FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Ovine and Caprine Meat and 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	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
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	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 <a href="#">FSIS Export Library</a> )	Various animal health attestations depending on the source material for the casings	Animal health	MAFF
15	Other animal products incl. pet food/treats	APHIS Certificates  (available on <a href="#">APHIS iREGS</a> )	Animal health attestations for various animal products (primarily for non-human consumption)	Animal health	MAFF
16	Organic products (plants, including fungi and plant-based processed products and feed) except organic livestock products, dairy and honey	TM-11  (issued by USDA/ National Organic Program (NOP) accredited Certification Body which certified exporting products)	Certifies that the product is of U.S. origin and meets USDA National Organic Program requirements	Compliance with the organic production standards	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 Marine Fisheries Service)	Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the ocean and against illegal fishing trade	Compliance with legal, regulated and reported fishing for world's fish resources conservation	Japan Fisheries Agency

18	Sturgeon Caviar	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	Oysters for raw consumption	Sanitary certificate	Attestation that production and handling standards are equivalent to Japanese standards	Food safety	MHLW

**Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)**

Certificate 1 – Absence of Quarantine Pests

Submission of Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate issued by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to the plant protection station of the designated port of entry is mandatory with an import inspection application form. Additional specific attestations are required for frozen fruit and vegetables, and other products permitted under bilaterally agreed protocols requiring specific phytosanitary measures (e.g. fresh cherries, nectarines, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, wheat and barley straw, and in-shell walnuts from the United States) – see [MAFF’s Appendix to the List of the Import Prohibited Plants](#). MAFF’s current review of the phytosanitary certificate requirements may result in a revision of the list of imported commodities requiring phytosanitary certificates. Japanese ports equipped with plant quarantine facilities and equipment are designated as ports of entry for plants. Designated ports and airports are listed in [Article 6 of the Plant Protection Law Enforcement Regulation](#) (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 or not the transshipment was planned. 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). Prior to May 17, 2019, all U.S. beef was exported under the [Less Than 30 Month \(LT30\) Age-Verification Quality System Assessment \(QSA\) Program](#). Establishments approved under this program may continue to export with the appropriate FSIS Letterhead Certificate. Starting May 17, 2019, establishments may also apply for the new [USDA Beef EV Program – Japan QAD 1030J](#) which allows for beef derived from cattle over 30 months of age to be exported to Japan. These shipments must also be accompanied by the appropriate Letterhead Certificate issued by FSIS. Further details are available in the [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 Meat etc. Meal for Pet Food Material

Poultry meat etc. meal 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 poultry meat etc. 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 or not the product contains other animal origin ingredients. For a full list of the required 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 or not 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 must be accompanied by a TM-11 organic export certificate that verifies that the product complies with the terms of the 2013 Organics Letter of Agreement between the United States and Japan. It is required for organic products only if product is not already certified as meeting JAS organic standards by a MAFF-accredited Certification Body. For details, please refer to the [USDA AMS National Organic Program \(NOP\)](#) website.

#### Certificate 17 – Bluefin and Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents and Swordfish and Chilled 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 Service (NMFS).<sup>2</sup> For frozen bluefin tuna, catch documents should be submitted to the Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) in advance (known as prior-confirmation<sup>3</sup>), 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 NMFS 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 the [NOAA website](#) and [JFA website](#) (in Japanese).

#### Certificate 18 – CITES Export Permit for Sturgeon Caviar

For sturgeon caviar 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. Additional information is available on the [USFWS website](#).

#### Certificate 19 – Documents on Oysters for Raw Consumption from MHLW-Approved States

To receive approval for import to Japan<sup>4</sup>, a state government must (i) inspect the "total coliform group," as well as the "fecal coliform," in oyster-growing waters and (ii) submit FDA-certified inspection results and a map of the harvest waters to MHLW. As of December 2019, MHLW allows imports of oysters from Connecticut, New York, Oregon and Washington states.

The exporter or packer of oysters must also be included on the [Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List \(ICSSL\)](#). Starting on June 2020, the certification documents issued by state governments should include 1) name of the product, 2) weight and quantity, 3) water area, 4) catch date, 5) the name and address of facility that handled/processed the oysters, 6) shipper's name and address, 7) importer's name and address, and 8) statement confirming the equivalency of production and handling standards for oysters between the exporting country and Japan. More information is available in [JA2019-0200](#). Please see the information on special food sanitation standard for oysters for raw consumption on [MHLW's website](#) (Japanese only).

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<sup>2</sup> NMFS 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The United States and Japan agreed to standardized practices of shellfish sanitation in 1962. Both countries apply the same sanitation practices except that MHLW monitors the "total coliform group", while FDA monitors "fecal coliform."



### **Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)**

See matrix above for attestations required.

### **Section IV. 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.
- c. For certificate 1 (but only for frozen fruit and vegetables which are permitted entry by the Japanese government in their fresh form), MAFF accepts a state-issued certificate and manufacturer/exporter's declaration certifying the temperature of freezing (at least zero degrees Fahrenheit).
- d. For certificate 19, MHLW accepts state-issued sanitary certificates for oysters for raw consumption from approved states.

Please contact USDA Japan at [agtokyo@usda.gov](mailto:agtokyo@usda.gov) if additional clarification is needed.

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments