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

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo


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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Product(s)</th>
<th>Title of Certificate</th>
<th>Attestation Required on Certificate</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Requesting Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit, semi-dried fruits, certain nuts(^1), logs and green lumber with bark</td>
<td>Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS PPQ Form 577)</td>
<td>Attestation to the absence of quarantine pests (injurious plants and animals)</td>
<td>Plant health</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attestation of the temperature of freezing (at least zero degrees Fahrenheit) for frozen vegetables and fruit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meat and poultry products</td>
<td>FSIS Form 9290-1 Certificate for Export to Japan</td>
<td>Attestation of regulatory compliance and regulatory equivalence</td>
<td>Animal health, food safety</td>
<td>MAFF, MHLW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Meat and poultry products transiting through a third country</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Meat and Poultry Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries</td>
<td>Attestation that container is sealed by USDA</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
<td>MAFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Beef and beef products</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Beef and Beef Products to Japan</td>
<td>Attestations of compliance with applicable USDA Export Verification Program</td>
<td>Animal health, food safety</td>
<td>MAFF, MHLW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) This requirement may vary depending on the final product condition (temperature, dryness level, in-shell, etc.).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Certificate Type</th>
<th>Attestation Required</th>
<th>Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Poultry meat and poultry meat products</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products to Japan</td>
<td>Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ovine and caprine meat and meat products</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Ovine and Caprine Meat and Meat Products to Japan</td>
<td>Attestations of compliance with USDA Export Verification Program</td>
<td>Animal health, food safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Poultry meat etc. meals for pet food material</td>
<td>APHIS Veterinary Certificate</td>
<td>Attestation of wholesomeness / Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>APHIS Veterinary Certificate (different versions according to end-use)</td>
<td>Multiple attestations including those related to foot and mouth disease, animal health, hygienic packaging, and intended end-use</td>
<td>Animal health, food and feed safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Egg products</td>
<td>FSIS Form 9060-5EP Egg Product Certificate for Wholesomeness</td>
<td>Attestation of wholesomeness</td>
<td>Animal health, food safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Egg products</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Egg Products to Japan</td>
<td>Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Egg products transiting through a third country</td>
<td>FSIS Letterhead Certificate for Egg Products for Export to Japan Transiting Third Countries</td>
<td>Attestation that container is sealed by USDA</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shell eggs</td>
<td>AMS certificate</td>
<td>Attestation of wholesomeness / Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease</td>
<td>Food safety, animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Casings</td>
<td>FSIS Forms (available on <a href="https://www.fsis.usda.gov">FSIS Export Library</a>)</td>
<td>Various animal health attestations depending on the source material for the casings</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Other animal products incl. pet food/treats</td>
<td>APHIS Certificates (available on <a href="https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regs">APHIS iREGS</a>)</td>
<td>Animal health attestations for various animal products (primarily for non-human consumption)</td>
<td>Animal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Organic products (plants, including fungi and plant-based processed products and feed) except organic livestock products, dairy and honey</td>
<td>TM-11 (issued by USDA/ National Organic Program (NOP) accredited Certification Body which certified exporting products)</td>
<td>Certifies that the product is of U.S. origin and meets USDA National Organic Program requirements</td>
<td>Compliance with the organic production standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna and swordfish</td>
<td>Catch Document (bluefin tuna) or Statistical Document (bigeye tuna and swordfish) (issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service)</td>
<td>Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the ocean and against illegal fishing trade</td>
<td>Compliance with legal, regulated and reported fishing for world’s fish resources conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sturgeon Caviar</td>
<td>CITES export or re-export permit (issued by Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Protection of endangered animal species</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Oysters for raw consumption</td>
<td>Sanitary certificate</td>
<td>Attestation that production and handling standards are equivalent to Japanese standards</td>
<td>Food safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 maccocyii) 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).\textsuperscript{2} For frozen bluefin tuna, catch documents should be submitted to the Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) in advance (known as prior-confirmation\textsuperscript{3}), and again at customs clearance. For chilled bluefin tuna, prior confirmation is not required.

For U.S. exports of swordfish (\textit{Xiphias gladius}) and frozen bigeye tuna (\textit{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](https://www.noaa.gov) and [JFA website](https://www.jfa.go.jp) (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](https://www.fws.gov).

**Certificate 19 – Documents on Oysters for Raw Consumption from MHLW-Approved States**
To receive approval for import to Japan\textsuperscript{4}, 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)](https://www.fda.gov). 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](https://www.mhlw.go.jp). Please see the information on special food sanitation standard for oysters for raw consumption on [MHLW’s website](https://www.mhlw.go.jp) (Japanese only).

\textsuperscript{2} NMFS uses the ICCAT electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation (\textit{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 \textit{eBCD} system.

\textsuperscript{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](https://www.mhlw.go.jp) (Japanese only). The Fishery Agency accepts electronic prior-confirmation application.

\textsuperscript{4} 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 if additional clarification is needed.

Attachments:

No Attachments