

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Opens Comment Period for Soymilk JAS Standard

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries invites public comments on the proposed revision of the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) for soybean milk products. Comments must be submitted in Japanese by October 8, 2022.

General

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) establishes and maintains [Japanese Agricultural Standards](#) (JAS) for many agricultural and related products. MAFF undertakes a mandatory review of each JAS at least every five years. Currently, JAS include several standards for foods derived from food-grade soybeans¹ (e.g., soymilk, plant protein, soy sauce, miso ([JA2022-0003](#)) and soy meat products ([JA2021-0149](#))). On September 9, 2022, MAFF opened the comment period on proposed revisions of JAS for [soymilk products](#) (available in Japanese only).

MAFF's [proposed JAS revisions for soymilk products](#) (available in Japanese only) do not change existing standards. Instead, in accordance with the 2017 amendment of the Act on JAS ([JA2019-0195](#)), MAFF plans to align the JAS format for these products with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard format.

Under the existing JAS for soymilk products, there are three product categories: 1) soymilk (soybean solid content of 8 percent or more and soybean protein content of 3.8 percent or more), 2) prepared soymilk (soybean solid content of 6 percent or more and soybean protein content of 3.0 percent or more) and 3) soymilk beverage (soybean solid content of 4 percent or more and a soybean protein content of 1.7 percent or more²). Soymilk in the first category must be produced directly from whole soybeans. Prepared soymilk (category #2) may be produced from soybean meal and contain vegetable oil, salt, honey, sugar, corn syrup and other sweeteners. Soymilk beverage (category #3) can include other ingredients, such as fruit juice, milk, coffee, spice, and others. Although JAS is a voluntary standard, the product name on the food label at the point of retail must match the product name under JAS.

For detailed information about Japan's soymilk market, please see [JA2021-0040](#).

How to submit comments

MAFF will accept comments on the proposed JAS for soymilk group through October 8, 2022. Comments can be submitted (i) [electronically via e-Gov](#) (click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit comments) or (ii) by mail (100-8950 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister's Secretariat, New Business and Food Industry Department, Food Manufacture Affairs Division, Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Office).

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Soybean oil and other products derived from crushed feed-grade soybeans are outside of the scope of this report.

² If the beverage uses 5 percent or more fruit juice, soybean solid content can be at least 2 percent and soybean protein content can equal or exceed 0.9 percent.