

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Temporarily Increases Phytosanitary Inspections of Select US Products

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

Travel restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic have precluded required on-site inspections of seven U.S. plant exports by Japanese authorities. As a temporary measure, Japan has increased on-arrival inspections of fresh cherries, mangoes, papayas, nectarines, prunes, fresh potatoes and hay. The measure will stay in place until Japanese inspectors are able to resume inspections in the United States.

Background

Market access to Japan is conditional on annual on-site phytosanitary inspections for a number of U.S. agricultural exports. During these inspections, Japanese inspectors travel to the United States to verify that production sites are free of quarantine pests of concern for Japan. Due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions, Japanese inspectors have not been able to visit the United States to carry out on-site inspections in the 2020 growing season.

To meet Japan's plant quarantine requirements and avoid trade disruptions while on-site inspections are on hold, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) temporarily increased on-arrival inspections of U.S. plant products normally subject to on-site MAFF inspections. On March 31, 2020, MAFF increased on-arrival inspection rate for U.S. imports of fresh cherries, nectarines, mangoes, papayas, and prunes. On May 28, 2020, as travel restrictions have remained in place, MAFF added U.S. fresh potatoes and hay, which also require annual on-site inspections, to the list of imports subject to additional on-arrival inspections. MAFF indicated that increased inspection rates would stay in place until Japanese inspectors are able to resume on-site inspections in the United States without restrictions (e.g., two weeks of self-quarantine). For details of the temporary inspection regime for the seven affected commodities, see Annex 1 or [MAFF's site](#) (in Japanese only).

Annex 1. MAFF's Regular and Temporary Inspection Schedules by Commodity and Shipment Volume

1. Fresh Cherries and Potatoes (1.5-fold increase in inspection volume)

Consignment Size (kilograms)	Regular Inspection Volume	Temporary Inspection Volume (COVID-19 Measure)
Less than 100	At least 20%	At least 30%
100 to less than 1,000	20 kg	Minimum of 30 kg
1,000 to less than 2,000	Minimum of 30 kg	Minimum of 45 kg
2,000 to less than 5,000	Minimum of 40 kg	Minimum of 60 kg
5,000 to less than 10,000	Minimum of 60 kg	Minimum of 90 kg
10,000 to less than 20,000	Minimum of 90 kg	Minimum of 135 kg
20,000 to less than 60,000	Minimum of 110 kg	Minimum of 165 kg
60,000 to less than 120,000	Minimum of 150 kg	Minimum of 225 kg
Over 120,000	Minimum of 180 kg	Minimum of 270 kg

2. Papayas and Mangoes (1.5 increase in inspection volume)

Consignment Size (kilograms)	Regular Inspection Volume	Temporary Inspection Volume (COVID-19 Measure)
Less than 75	At least 20%	At least 30%
75 to less than 1,000	Minimum of 15 kg	Minimum of 22.5 kg
1,000 to less than 2,000	Minimum of 20 kg	Minimum of 30 kg
2,000 to less than 5,000	Minimum of 30 kg	Minimum of 45 kg
5,000 to less than 10,000	Minimum of 40 kg	Minimum of 60 kg
10,000 to less than 20,000	Minimum of 60 kg	Minimum of 90 kg
20,000 to less than 60,000	Minimum of 70 kg	Minimum of 105 kg
60,000 to less than 120,000	Minimum of 100 kg	Minimum of 150 kg
Over 120,000	Minimum of 120 kg	Minimum of 180 kg

3. Prunes and Nectarines (2-fold increase in inspection volume)

Consignment Size (kilograms)	Regular Inspection Volume	Temporary Inspection Volume (COVID-19 Measure)
Less than 100	At least 20%	At least 40%
100 to less than 1,000	Minimum of 20 kg	Minimum of 40 kg
1,000 to less than 2,000	Minimum of 30 kg	Minimum of 60 kg
2,000 to less than 5,000	Minimum of 40 kg	Minimum of 80 kg
5,000 to less than 10,000	Minimum of 60 kg	Minimum of 120 kg
10,000 to less than 20,000	Minimum of 90 kg	Minimum of 180 kg
20,000 to less than 60,000	Minimum of 110 kg	Minimum of 220 kg
60,000 to less than 120,000	Minimum of 150 kg	Minimum of 300 kg
Over 120,000	Minimum of 180 kg	Minimum of 360 kg

4. Hay (1.5-fold increase in inspection volume)

Consignment Size (kilograms)	Regular Inspection Volume	Temporary Inspection Volume (COVID-19 Measure)
Less than 300	At least 10%	At least 15%
300 to less than 3,000	Minimum of 30 kg	Minimum of 45 kg
3,000 to less than 24,000	Minimum of 60 kg	Minimum of 90 kg
24,000 to less than 200,000	Minimum of 120 kg	Minimum of 180 kg
Over 200,000	Minimum of 240 kg	Minimum of 360 kg

Attachments:

No Attachments.