

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Recognizes US HACCP System for Meat and Poultry

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety,
Export Accomplishments - Market Access

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Report Highlights:

On May 29, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) confirmed that the U.S. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system for meat and poultry is sufficient to meet new import requirements scheduled to come into effect on June 1, 2021 under Japan's revised Food Sanitation Act. U.S. exporters of these products to Japan do not need to take any additional action.

General Information:

In June 2018, Japan amended its Food Sanitation Act to require all domestic meat and poultry establishments to introduce hygiene control measures based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. Imported meat and poultry products would also need to conform to HACCP requirements as determined by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW). These requirements came into effect on June 1, 2020 with a one year grace period for imported products until June 1, 2021 (see [JA9058](#) for more details). Prior to full implementation, MHLW would conduct a review of HACCP systems currently implemented in exporting countries, including the United States.

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provided the necessary information to MHLW on the U.S. HACCP system via questionnaire responses as well as an in-person audit of U.S. establishments in February 2020. Upon completing its review, MHLW announced on May 29, 2020 that it recognized the U.S. HACCP system for meat and poultry as fulfilling the requirements of the revised Food Sanitation Act. As a result, U.S. meat and poultry exports may continue to Japan uninterrupted. No additional information or documentation is required. This applies to all products eligible for export to Japan including beef, pork, poultry, sheep, and goat meat (including eligible offal products).

Please note that beef, sheep, and goat meat exported to Japan must still comply with the requirements of the applicable USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Export Verification (EV) program. See the FSIS [Export Library](#) for more information.

The revised Food Sanitation Act also requires imported dairy products to meet certain food safety requirements effective June 1, 2020. On March 1, 2020, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began to issue new certificates enabling U.S. products to meet these new requirements. More information is available in [JA2020-0038](#).

In 2019, the United States exported \$3.6 billion of meat and poultry products to Japan. Japan is the top export market for U.S. beef and pork.

Attachments:

No Attachments.