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Trade Policy Monitoring

The Partial Revision of JAS Organic Standard (REVISED)

2009

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Report Highlights:

On March 30 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) opened a public comment period for the partial revision (draft) of the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) concerning organic agricultural products. The deadline for comments is April 28, 2009.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

<< POVISIONAL TRANSLATION >>

The Partial Revision of JAS Organic Standards (Draft)

March 30, 2009
MAFF

1. Purpose

Under the provisions of Article 10 of the Law Concerning Standardization and Proper Labeling of Agriculture and Forestry Products (Law No.175 of 1950) and "the Standards of Enactment and Revision of JAS Standards and Labeling (the Agriculture and Forestry Material Standards Committee of August 2005)," the necessary revisions of JAS organic standards (MAFF notification 1605 of October 27, 2005) shall be made for supplying good quality products to consumers.

2. Details

The following JAS Organic Standards shall be reviewed:

- (1) For the purpose of general use, agricultural materials that are derived from used papers as well as recycled fiber materials of packaged seeds in belt-type cotton linter shall be permitted.
- (2) Regarding agricultural chemicals in Appendices 2 and 3, there shall be some additions and deletions of agricultural chemicals to reflect actual production practices and international standards.

This notification is posted on the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) web site (in Japanese only).

<http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=Pcm1010&BID=550001033&OBJCD=&GROUP>

A Brief Description of the Review of JAS Organic Standards

1. Standards of Production Methods

- (1) Regarding an agricultural material (paper multi) that is derived from used papers, In the section of the general administration, the agricultural material that is not added with chemical substances in its production process shall be permitted.

Reasons:

1. Demand for use of this material as a weed control since organic productions do not use herbicides.
 2. The process of paper multi production from used papers does not involve chemically compound materials.
- (2) Regarding agricultural materials of packaged seeds in belt-type (seeder tape), In the general administration section, the agricultural material that is made from recycled cotton linter and does not use chemical compounds in its production process shall be permitted.

Reasons:

1. Demand for use of this material to improve the sprouting of seeds and to reduce the labor put forth in thinning plants.
2. Although there are 3 types of seeder tapes, the product made of recycled fiber materials does not use chemical compounds in its production process.

2. Appendix 2 (Agricultural Chemicals)

- (1) The use of **Granulated ferric phosphate** shall be permitted.

Reasons:

1. Demand for use as a pest control for slugs and snails.
2. It is permitted by the organic standards of the Codex Guideline and EU.

- (2) The use of **Water-soluble potassium bicarbonate** shall be permitted.

Reasons:

1. Demand for use as a disease control of grey mold and mildew.
2. It is permitted by the organic standards of the US, EU and Canada.

3. Appendix 3 (Conditioning Chemicals)

- (1) **dl-tartrate**, **dl-potassium bitartrate**, and **dl-sodium tartrate** shall be deleted from the table.

Reasons:

1. The above conditioning chemicals have never been used in the organic production practice.
2. To reach consistency with Codex Guidelines.

- (2) The use of **Ethylene** shall be permitted only for the force-ripening of kiwifruit.

Reasons:

1. Demand for the use of **ethylene** since kiwifruit does not force-ripen without the use of **ethylene**.
2. To reach consistency with the Codex Guideline.

- (3) The use of **Potassium aluminum sulphate** shall be permitted.

Reasons:

1. Demand for the use of **Potassium aluminum sulphate** to prevent color-changes in the cut area of a banana cluster.
2. It is permitted by the organic standards of the US and EU.

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http://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/kaigi/pdf/090316_bukai_f.pdf

Packaged Seeds in Belt-type cotton linter

