

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 09,2020

Report Number: JA2020-0171

Report Name: Japan Revised Phytosanitary Certificate Requirements for
Agricultural Products

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On August 5, 2020, Japan revised the list of agricultural imports that require a phytosanitary certificate (PC). Japan implemented a 3-year transition period for imports previously exempted from the PC requirement. U.S. stakeholders are advised to work with importers to confirm PC requirements with Japan's quarantine officers.

General

In 1950, the [Plant Protection Act](#)¹ established quarantine regulations for agricultural imports to Japan. In accordance with Article 6 of the Act, Japan requires that agricultural imports be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate (PC) confirming the absence of quarantine pests. Article 5-3 of the Plant Protection Act identifies products exempted from the PC requirement.

On August 5, 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) revised the list of PC exemptions and implemented the updated Plant Protection Act. Japan notified the initial proposal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in October 2019 (see [JA2019-0193](#)). On August 6 2020, Japan updated the WTO notification ([G/SPS/N/JPN/684/Add.1](#)) to include a 3-year transition period. Until August 4, 2023, MAFF will allow imports of products which had received an exceptional exemption from the PC requirements, but are now subject to PC requirements, to enter Japan without a PC. FAS Tokyo advises exporters to direct further questions about PC requirements to their contracted importers, who can consult directly with quarantine officers at the expected port of import.

Annex 1 of this report lists products exempted from the PC requirement under Japan's newly revised Plant Protection Act, unless they are listed in Annex 2. Annex 2 lists species and plant parts that require a PC, even if they fall into any of the categories covered in Annex 1.

¹ The official translation was last updated in 2009 and does not contain more recently updated sections.

Annex 1. List of product categories exempted from revised PC requirements

1. Dried and compressed plants
2. Dried and chopped plants (excluding Senna stem (*Cassia acutifolia*), orange fruits and peels (*Citrus sinensis*) and cassava roots (*Manihot esculenta*))
3. Dried and crushed or smashed plants (excluding orange and tamarind fruits (*Tamarindus indica*) and cassava roots)
4. Dried plants that are not compressed, chopped, crushed or smashed.
5. Frozen plants (excluding shelled walnut)

Annex 2. List of species and plant parts that require PC under any circumstances

<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Leaf, branch and bark
<i>Eucalyptus stuartiana</i>	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
Egoma (<i>Perilla ocymoides</i>)	Seed
Cacao (<i>Theobroma cacao</i>)	Seed
<i>Castanea crenata</i>	Chestnut (excluding peeled chestnut)
Bubinga (<i>Guibourtia pellegriniana</i>)	Bark
Walnut (<i>Juglans</i> sp.)	Shelled walnut
Coriander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	Leaf and seed
Peruvian pepper (<i>Schinus molle</i>)	Leaf, branch, flower and fruit
Sesame (<i>Sesamum indicum</i>)	Seed
Pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i>)	Fruit
Sugar pine (<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>)	Leaf, branch and bark
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Fruit
Rapeseed (<i>Brassica napus</i> ssp. <i>Oleifera</i>)	Seed
Senna (<i>Cassia acutifolia</i>)	Leaf
Tamarind (<i>Tamarindus indica</i>)	Fruit
<i>Castanea mollissima</i>	Chestnut (excluding peeled chestnut)
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Seed
Black cumin (<i>Nigella sativa</i>)	Seed
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Leaf and stem
<i>Pinus maritima</i>	Leaf, branch and bark
Caraway (<i>Carum carvi</i>)	Seed
Brazil nut tree (<i>Bertholletia excelsa</i>)	Nut (excluding peeled nut)

<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Flower and seed
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Leaf and seed
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Leaf, branch and flower
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Fruit
Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	Leaf, branch and flower
Horse radish tree (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>)	Leaf and fruit
Chenopodiaceae	Seed
Gramineae	Seed (excluding malt)
Polygonaceae	Seed
Amaranthaceae	Seed
Leguminosae	Seed

Attachments:

[Side-by-side comparison of new and old PC requirements provided by MAFF.pdf](#)