The regulatory environment in Japan with respect to Food and Drink imports

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Foreign Countries

【Bonded area】

Fruits and Vegetables

Plant Quarantine

OK

Meat and meat products

Animal Quarantine

OK

Food Sanitation

Notification and Inspections

OK

Customs Inspection

Customs duty, Consumption Tax

【Domestic distribution】
# The Main Japanese Food Import Laws

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<tr>
<th>Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law</th>
<th>Vegetables and fruits</th>
<th>Meat and meat products</th>
<th>Fishery products</th>
<th>Other Processed Foods</th>
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<td>Plant Protection Law</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Sanitation Law</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>●</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Main Japanese Food Import Laws (2)

- **Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act**
  To limit the type and volume of certain imports
  (Sardines, herring, squid, processed laver, caviar, bluefin tuna and whale, etc.)

- **Liquor Tax Law**
  To control the importation and sale of alcoholic beverages

- **Pharmaceutical Affairs Law**
Food Sanitation Law

• Anyone who wishes to import food items for the purpose of sale or for other commercial purposes must submit a food import notification to the quarantine station, on each import occasion.

• Food importers also bear liability equivalent to that of food producers and sellers in Japan.
Quarantine Stations

• Monitoring and Guidance of foods at the time of importation
• Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan
• Reference: Imported Foods Inspection Service Home Page of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW)

http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/
Imported Foods Inspection Services Home Page

Do you know what percentage of the food you take every day is produced within Japan?

According to the Food Supply and Demand Table of 2002 (made by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), Japan’s domestic production supplies 40% of foods consumed, based on calorie supply. In other words, Japan relies 60% of foods consumed on the food that is imported from other countries (= imported foods). Japan can no longer support its people’s diet without imported food.

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour, therefore, considers the safety of imported foods as an important issue in order to secure the "safety of diet" of Japanese people, and we have been making efforts to secure the safety.

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(1) Import Procedure under Food Sanitation Law

(2) Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan
   2013 - Development of Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2013 (PDF: 128KB)
Procedures Required by the Food Sanitation Law

Import notification

Document examination at MHLW quarantine station

Inspection not required

Inspection required

Ordered inspection

Voluntary inspection

Monitoring inspection

Passed

Rejected

Disposal, return

Issuance of a Certificate of Notification
Monitoring plan for FY 2013

Implementation of "Imported Foods Monitoring Plan for FY 2013"

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# Schedule 1

## Processed livestock foods

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<th>Food type</th>
<th>Category of inspection items</th>
<th>Number of inspection specimens</th>
<th>Total number of Inspection specimens</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Processed livestock foods, Natural cheeses, Processed meat products, ice cream, frozen products (meat products), and other products</td>
<td>Antibacterial substances, Residual agricultural chemicals, Additives, Pathogenic microorganisms, Standards for constituents</td>
<td>2,200 1,200 1,400 2,100 1,500</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation of Inspection Orders based on Section 3, Article 26 of the Food Sanitation Law (2013)

1 Implementation of Inspection Orders based on Section 3, Article 26 of the Food Sanitation Law

Notice No. 0329 Article 1 of the Office of Import Food Safety March 29, 2013

Schedule 1

Schedule 2

Schedule 3

Schedule 4

2 Separately indicated

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<td>All Exporting Countries</td>
<td>Pufferfish</td>
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<td>Salted salmon roe</td>
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<td>Peanuts and processed products (limited to products containing 10% or more of peanuts)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pistachio nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Product Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Unheated meat products (food to be eaten with no heating only)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Soft or semisoft natural cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gorgonzola cheese (soft or semisoft cheese only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural cheese</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Examination criteria

• Whether the imported food, etc. complies with manufacturing standards regulated under the Food Sanitation Law
• Whether the use of additives complies with the standards
• Whether poisonous or hazardous substances are contained
• Whether the manufacturer or the place of manufacturing has a record of sanitation problems in the past
Major Violations against the Food Sanitation Law

- Products with Undesignated additives used
  - Article 6: 28%
  - Article 10: 6%
  - Article 18: 5%
  - Article 9: 1%
  - Article 62: 1%

- Products that are rotten, decomposed, hazardous or poisonous
  - Article 11: 59%

- Foods or additives that do not meet specifications and standards
  - Article 1: 5%

FY2012
The total number of violations
1,053

Products with Undesignated additives used

- Article 6
- Article 10
- Article 18
- Article 9
- Article 62
Major Violations  Article 11
Standards and specifications for foods or additives

- Violation of specification for components of vegetables/frozen vegetables
  (violation of tolerance for pesticide residue)
- Violation of specification for components of aquatic products and processed aquatic products
  (violation of tolerance for veterinary medicines/pesticide residue)
- Violation of specification for components of processed food (positive for E. coli, etc.)
- Violation of standards on the use of food additives (sorbic acid, sodium benzoate, sulfur dioxide, etc.)
- Violation of specification for components of additives
Major Violations  Article 6
Prohibition of sales of foods and additives or additives

- Aflatoxin on the surface of maize, peanuts, Job’s tears, chili pepper, pistachio nuts, almonds and cassia seeds, etc.
- Interminglement of toxic fishes
- Detection of diarrheic shellfish poisoning
- Detection of Cyanide
- Detection of Listeria monocytogenes from unheated meat product, etc.
- Decay, deterioration and molding of coffee bean, rice, wheat, etc. by accident during transport
Preparation of documents for import notification

- Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc.
- Information on materials, ingredients, and manufacturing method
- Sanitary Certificate (if required)
- Voluntary inspection results (if required)
Documents to be prepared by exporters

Processed food

• List of materials specifically showing the scientific names of all raw ingredients (food ingredients) and additives used, prepared and issued by the manufacturing company and bearing the name of the company

• The manufacturing process (showing the complete process from ingredients to end product, including the temperature and time of sterilization)

• Description of the product
Plant Protection Law

Food Items Subject to Inspection

Vegetables, fruits, nuts, oats, flour, beans, spices, coffee beans, and the like

Documents to be prepared by exporters

• Phytosanitary certificate issued by the government of the exporting country
• Manufacturing process, packing list or invoice, etc. (if required)
Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law

Food Items Subject to Designated Quarantine

Meat, internal organs, ham, bacon, and sausage of animals (cloven-hoofed animals, such as beef cattle, pigs and sheep); meat and eggs of chickens, quails, pheasants, ostriches, guinea fowls, turkeys and ducks
Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law

Documents to be prepared by exporters

- Inspection certificate issued by the government of the exporting country

- Manufacturing process, packing list or invoice, etc. (if required)
Reference

Plant Protection Station website

Animal Quarantine Service website
Thank you for your attention

MIPRO

http://www.mipro.or.jp/english/