



# **The Trade Handbook**

**~Guide for Exporting**

**from Pacific Island Countries to Japan~**

**November 2024**

**Pacific Islands Centre**

**QUNIE CORPORATION**

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1. Purpose of this Handbook**

Japan and the Pacific Island Countries and Territories have a long history of close relations, and we are also long-standing partners who share the Pacific Ocean, which provides us with rich blessings. Promoting trade, investment and tourism with Japan, which is geographically close and has a large market, is an essential measure for revitalizing the economies of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Aimed at promoting exports from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to Japan, this handbook provides an overview of the standard trade management system, tariff system, and other laws, regulations, procedures, inspections, quarantine and safety standards, etc. in Japan for importing the main export products of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories into Japan. In addition, we have identified agricultural, forestry and livestock products, etc. that have high potential for export from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to Japan, and we have also provided detailed information on the procedures and regulations for importing these products into Japan.

We hope that those who are looking to start exporting from Pacific Island Countries and Territories to Japan, and those who are already exporting and wishing to expand their business further, will find this handbook useful in revitalizing their business.

**Please note that all information in this handbook is at the time of publication (August 2024) or earlier. Please check the latest information by contacting the relevant organizations or checking the information published on their websites.**

## 1.2. How to Use this Handbook

This handbook is structured as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 : Structure of this Handbook**

Chapters		Table of Contents			Number of pages	
1	Introduction	1.1	Purpose of this Handbook		p.2	
		1.2	How to Use this Handbook		p.3	
2	Overview of Export to Japan	2.1	Process of Import/Export		p.6	
		2.2	Laws and Regulations related to Trade Control	2.2.1	Plant Protection Act	p.9
				2.2.2	Food Sanitation Act	p.13
				2.2.3	Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices	p.16
				2.2.4	Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act	p.18
				2.2.5	Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch	p.18
				2.2.6	Food Labeling Act	p.9
				2.2.7	Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards	p.22
				2.2.8	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	p.23
				2.2.9	Other Regulations	p.24
		2.3	Tariff System	2.3.1	Overview	p.25
				2.3.2	Item Classification	p.26
2.3.3	Regulated Items			p.27		
2.3.4	Preferential and Other Special Measures			p.29		
2.3.5	Rules of Origin			p.25		
2.3.6	Taxes other than Tariffs			p.35		
3	Examples of Import /Export Procedures			p.38		
4	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)			p.76		

Please refer to the appropriate section based on Table 2 if you want to know the specific contents.

**Table 2: Corresponding Sections of this Handbook by Content**

Contents		Corresponding section in this handbook		
1	General import/export procedures	2.1	Process of Import/Export	p.6
2	Items prohibited or restricted for imports into Japan	2.3.3	Regulated Items	p.27
3	Available tax reductions/exemptions	2.3.4	Preferential and Other Special Measures	p.29
		2.3.5	Rules of Origin	p.25
4	Procedures and regulations for importing food into Japan	2.2	Laws and Regulations related to Trade Control	p.9
		2.2.1	Plant Protection Act	p.9
		2.2.2	Food Sanitation Act	p.13

Contents		Corresponding section in this handbook		
	Import and export procedures of Green Coffee Beans, Roasted Coffee Beans and Instant Coffee	3.1	Import/Export Procedures for Coffee	p.39
	Import and export procedures for Honey	3.2	Import/Export Procedures for Honey	p.42
	Import and export procedures for Fish, Shellfish, Crustaceans and Seaweed (Mozuku, Kirinsai, etc.)	3.3	Import/Export Procedures for Seafood	p.44
	Import and export procedures for Chocolate (confectionery)	3.4	Import/Export Procedures for Chocolate	p.51
	Import and export procedures for Peanut Butter	3.5	Import/Export Procedures for Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts and Other Preparations of Plant Parts	p.53
	Import and export procedures for Dried Fruit	3.6	Import/Export Procedures for Dried Fruits	p.56
	Import and export procedures for Vanilla Beans, Pepper, Turmeric, Chilis and Ginger	3.7	Import/Export Procedures for Spices	p.58
	Import and export procedures for Beefs	3.8	Import/Export Procedures for Meat and Meat Products	p.60
	Import and export procedures for Noni Juice, Rum, and Beer	3.9	Import/Export Procedures for Beverage	p.63
5	Import and export procedures for Pearls and Pearl Products	3.10	Import/Export Procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories	p.67
6	Import and export procedures for Coconut Oil, Tamanu Oil, Mud Packs, etc.	3.11	Import/Export Procedures for Cosmetics	p.70
7	Import and export procedures for Wood and Wood products	3.12	Import/Export Procedures for Wood and Wood Products	p.74 3
8	Contact information	5.1	List of Customs	p.84
		5.2	List of Plant Protection Stations	p.85
		5.3	List of Animal Quarantine Services	p.85

## **2. Overview of Export to Japan**



## 2.1. Process of Import/Export

### 2.1.1. Process of Commencing Export Business

The process of considering exporting goods to Japan is shown in Table 3. After deciding the products to be exported and the business partners, you can proceed to the steps of signing contract with them (For details, please refer to 2.1.2 General Trade Process).

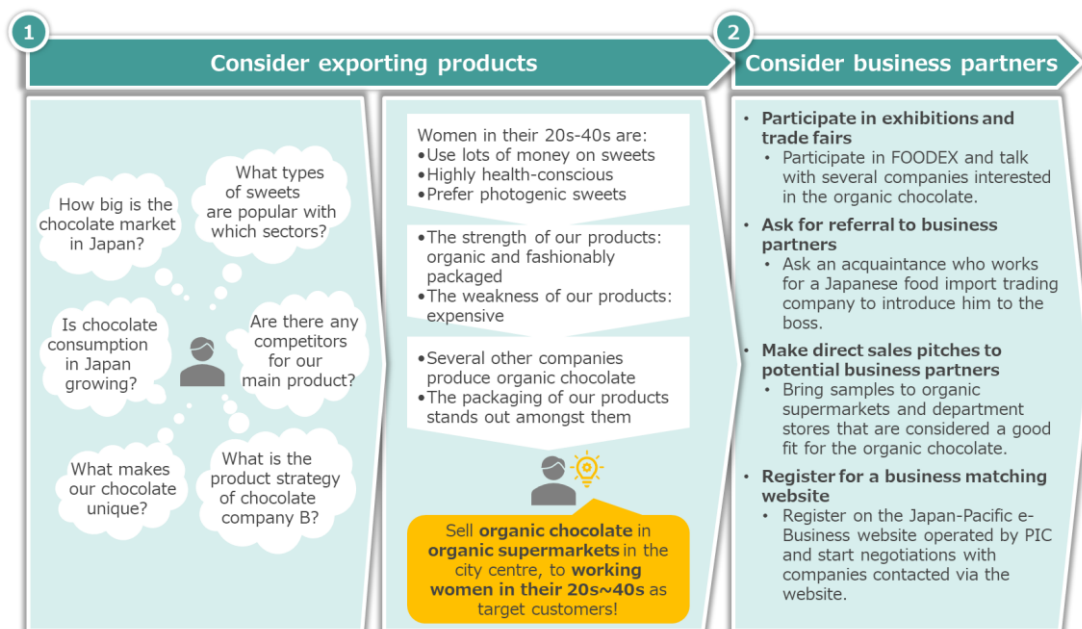
**Table 3 Process of Commencing Export Business**

Step	Details	
1	Consider products for exporting to Japan	<p>The main points to consider when deciding whether to export products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analysis of market size and growth potential, consumer needs and trends</li> <li>● Analysis of the presence of competitors and their characteristics</li> <li>● Analysis of the strengths of your products and the production capacities, and estimation of the sales costs, including distribution costs, and the sales prices</li> <li>● Identification of the target customers and develop differentiation strategies based on the above analysis</li> </ul>
2	Consider business partners	<p>The following are some ways to consider business partners. For more details, please refer to "4.7 How to Find Business Partners".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Participate in exhibitions and trade fairs</b> JETRO's exhibition database "<a href="#">Online Trade Fair Database (J-messe)</a>"<sup>1</sup> allows you to search for upcoming exhibitions and trade fairs with respect to event period, industry, location, etc.</li> <li><b>2. Ask for referral to business partners</b> Not few companies start exporting through introductions from people they meet at events such as trade shows or other acquaintances.</li> <li><b>3. Make direct sales pitches to potential business partners</b> Another way to start exporting is to contact potential customers directly and send them samples of your products. In this case, it is important to communicate with the decision makers of the potential partners.</li> <li><b>4. Register for a business matching website</b> By registering for the "JAPAN-PACIFIC e-Business" business matching site operated by the Pacific Islands Centre (PIC), you can browse the trade and investment demands in Japan and the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, as well as information on the registered companies. If you would like to consult with PIC directly, please contact using the contact form below, which can be found on the Pacific Islands Centre (PIC) website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ PIC JAPAN-PACIFIC e-Business: <a href="https://picebiz.com/">https://picebiz.com/</a></li> <li>➢ PIC Contact Form: <a href="https://pic.or.jp/en/contact/">https://pic.or.jp/en/contact/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ol>

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION

Figure 1 shows an example of a company producing organic chocolates in Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

<sup>1</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Online Trade Fair Database (J-messe)", <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/database/j-messe/tradefair/detail/135899>



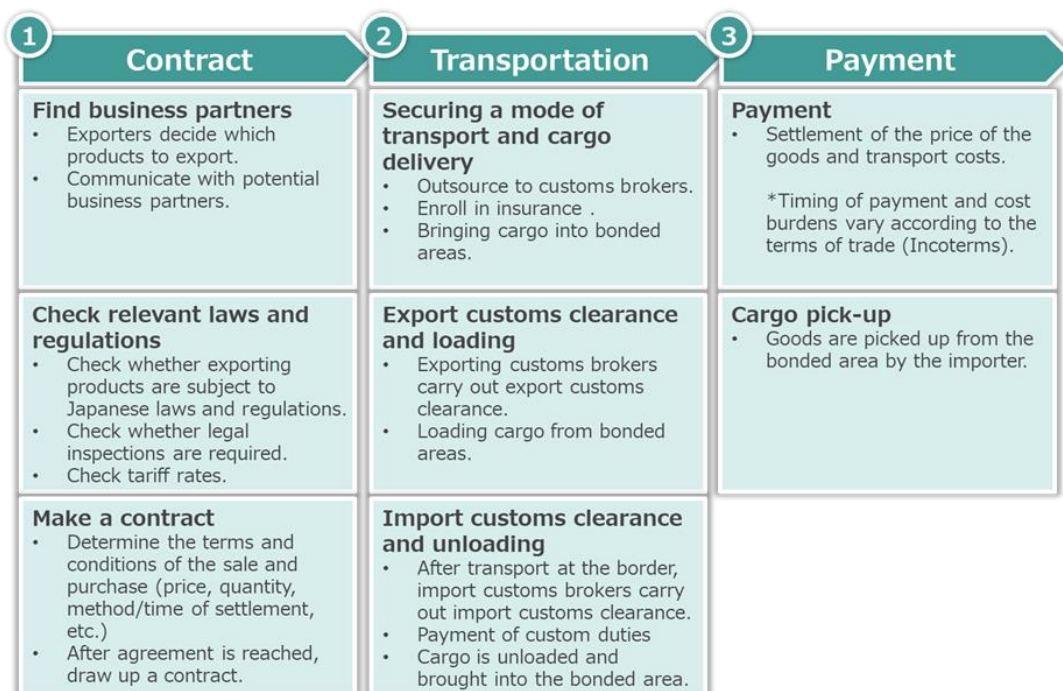
**Figure 1: Example of the Process of Commencing Export Business**

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION

### 2.1.2. General Trade Process

The import and export processes are generally divided into three stages: (1) contract, (2) transportation, and (3) payment. The general process is shown in Figure 2.

\* Since the specific process may differ depending on the terms of the trade transaction, the method of transportation, and the exporting products, it is recommended to check with the customs office or the importers in Japan.

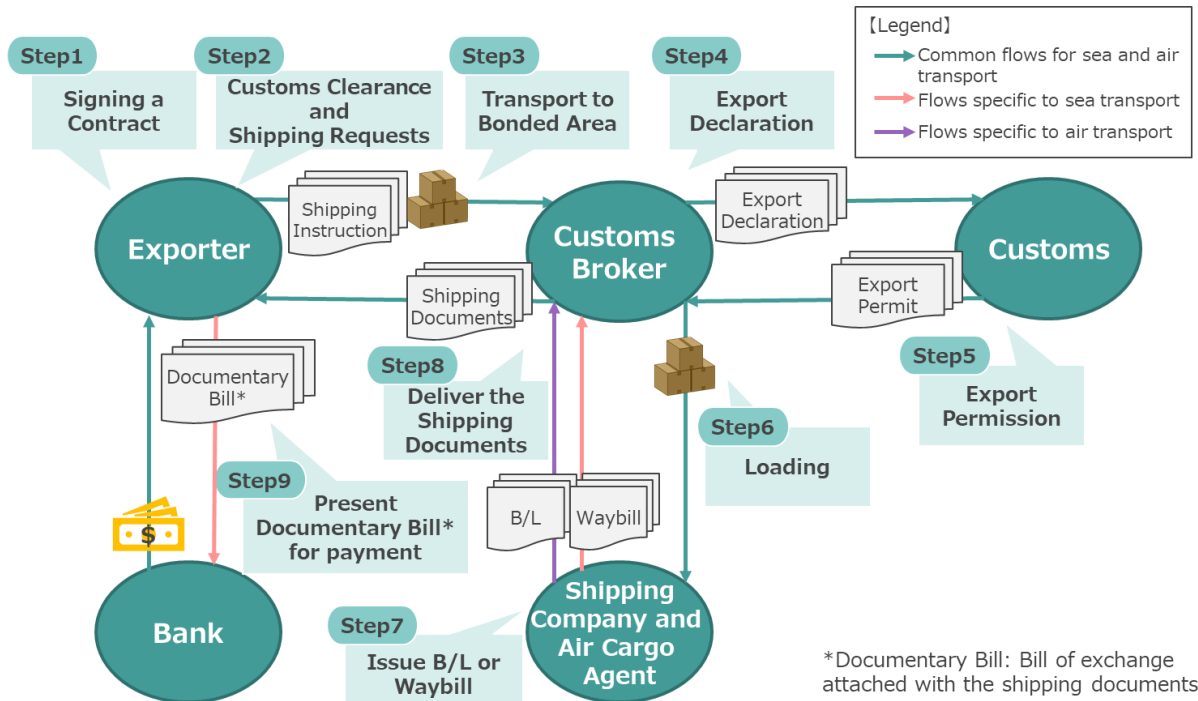


**Figure 2: General Trade Process**

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization, "Trade Flow" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/theme/export/basic/trading.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

The flow of documents, information, and cargo among stakeholders involved in the export is shown in Figure 3.

\*The required documents and procedures may vary depending on the exporting country, so it is recommended to check with customs and other relevant organizations in the exporting country.



**Figure 3 Stakeholder Relationship Diagram**

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization, “Flow of Trade Practice” (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/theme/export/basic/trading/procedure.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

The procedures for each step in Figure 3 are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Procedures in the Trade Process**

Step	Main Implementer	Implementation Matters
1	Exporters and Importers	Sign a contract
2	Exporters	Prepare "Invoice", "Packing List" and "Shipping Instructions (S/I) <sup>2</sup> " and request a customs broker (shipping agent/forwarder) to clear and deliver the cargo
3		Transport the exporting cargo to the bonded area
4	Customs Brokers	Submit an "Export Declaration" to Customs based on the "Shipping Instruction (S/I)"
5	Customs	Carry out document and physical inspections, if necessary, and issue an "Export Permit"
6	Shipping Companies and Air Cargo Agents	Load the cargo
7		For sea transport, issue a "Bill of Lading (B/L)" and submit it to the customs broker

<sup>2</sup> Shipping Instructions (S/I) are required for air transportation as well as sea transportation, since they contain the basic information to be included in the Bill of Lading (B/L) and Waybill. There is no set format, but the main items to be written are designated. Generally, this document is prepared by the exporter, but it may also be prepared by a customs broker based upon the exporter's request.

Step	Main Implementer	Implementation Matters
		For air transport, issue a "Waybill <sup>3</sup> " and submit it to the customs broker
8	Customs Brokers	Deliver the shipping documents including "Export Permit", "Bill of Lading (B/L)" and "Waybill" to the exporter
9	Exporters	Issue the "documentary bill <sup>4</sup> " and present it to the bank for settlement.

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Organization, "Flow of Trade Practice"(in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/theme/export/basic/trading/procedure.html>, "Difference between Air Waybill and B/L"(in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04A-010932.html>, Fuyo Air Cargo Co. Ltd., "Air Transport Flow" <https://www.fuyoaircargo.co.jp/flow/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2.2. Laws and Regulations Related to Trade Control

The major Japanese laws and regulations related to export of goods to Japan are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: List of Laws and Regulations Related to Export to Japan**

Laws and Regulations	Major Related Items	Supervising Government Agencies
Food Sanitation Act	All food and drinks, food additives, tableware, containers/wrapping, and toys	<a href="#">Office of Import Food Safety, Food Inspection and Safety Division, Public Health Bureau Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare<sup>5</sup></a>
Plant Protection Act	Flowering (phanerogamous) plant, pteridophyte, bryophyte, harmful plants (bacillus, parasite, etc.), harmful animals (various insects and mites, etc.), used agricultural machinery, etc.	<a href="#">Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries<sup>6</sup></a> <a href="#">Plant Protection Station<sup>7</sup></a>
Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act Import Trade Control Order	- Import quota items (herring) - Para. 2 approved items (whale) - Prior confirmed items (vaccine) - Sanctioned items	<a href="#">Trade Control Policy Division, trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry<sup>8</sup></a>
Act on the Protection and Management of Wildlife, and the Optimization of Hunting	Bird species and their by-products, animals and their by-products, bird eggs (limited to wild animals)	<a href="#">Office of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment<sup>9</sup></a>
Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices	Pharmaceutical, pharmaceutical-related items, cosmetics, medical equipment, designated substance, medical devices for animal	<a href="#">Compliance and Narcotics Division, Pharmaceutical Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare<sup>10</sup></a> <a href="#">Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau,</a>

<sup>3</sup> Air waybills (Waybills) cannot be used as collateral for documentary bills because they do not have collateral function as bills of lading (B/L). Therefore, settlement is made on a remittance basis or by documentary bill without a letter of credit. However, if "Air Waybill Acceptable" clause is included in the letter of credit, the Waybill can be accepted as documentary bill.

<sup>4</sup> Documentary Bill is a Bill of exchange attached with the shipping documents

<sup>5</sup> Office of Import Food Safety, Food Inspection and Safety Division, Public Health Bureau Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare:  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu\\_kanshi/index\\_00017.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/index_00017.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>6</sup> Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>7</sup> Plant Protection Station: <https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/english.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>8</sup> Trade Control Policy Division, trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/trade_control/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>9</sup> Office of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment: <https://www.env.go.jp/en/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>10</sup> Compliance and Narcotics Division, Pharmaceutical Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/01.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<b>Laws and Regulations</b>	<b>Major Related Items</b>	<b>Supervising Government Agencies</b>
(alias “Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices”)	treatment/diagnosis, in vitro diagnostic and cellular and tissue-based products	<a href="#">Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries<sup>11</sup></a>
Act on the Protection of Marine Resources	Koi (Carp), goldfish and other Carassius, silver carp, big head carp, grass carp, black chinese roach, salmon eyed egg and fry, and Penaeus fry	<a href="#">Fish and Fishery Products Safety Office, Animal Health and Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries<sup>12</sup></a>
Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants	Mackerel, pacific saury, sardine, squid and cuttle fish and processed products which are made of/from any of these fish species	<a href="#">Fisheries Proper Distribution Promotion Office, Fisheries Processing Industries and Marketing Division<sup>13</sup></a>
Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch	Sugar and starch	<a href="#">Regional Agricultural Production Division, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries<sup>14</sup></a> <a href="#">Agriculture &amp; Livestock Industries Corporation<sup>15</sup></a>
Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock	Even-toed ungulate, horses, poultry (chickens, ducks), rabbits, bees and these meats, sausage, ham and rice straw.	<a href="#">Animal Quarantine Service<sup>16</sup></a>
Act on Stabilization in Livestock Farming Operations	Butter, non-fat powdered milk and condensed milk	<a href="#">Agriculture &amp; Livestock Industries Corporation<sup>17</sup></a>
Law for Stabilization of Supply-Demand and Price of Staple Food	Rice grains (rice, rice flour, rice cake, etc.), wheat and barley (products processed/regulated wheat, barley, or rye)	<a href="#">Grain Quality Assurance Office, Grain Trade and Operation Division, Crop Production Policy Department, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries<sup>18</sup></a> <a href="#">Grain Quality Assurance Office, Grain Trade and Operation Division, Crop Production Bureau (in Japanese)<sup>19</sup></a>
Liquor Tax Law	Alcoholic beverages (beverages with an alcohol content of 1% by volume or more)	<a href="#">Ministry of Finance (National Tax Agency)<sup>20</sup></a>

<sup>11</sup> Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: [https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/food\\_safety/index.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/food_safety/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>12</sup> Fish and Fishery Products Safety Office, Animal Health and Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>13</sup> Fisheries Proper Distribution Promotion Office, Fisheries Processing Industries and Marketing Division: <https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/220614.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>14</sup> Regional Agricultural Production Division, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <https://www.alic.go.jp/english/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>15</sup> Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation: <https://www.alic.go.jp/english/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>16</sup> Animal Quarantine Service: <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/product/import.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>17</sup> Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation: <https://www.alic.go.jp/english/livestock.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>18</sup> Grain Quality Assurance Office, Grain Trade and Operation Division, Crop Production Policy Department, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>19</sup> Grain Quality Assurance Office, Grain Trade and Operation Division, Crop Production Bureau: [https://www.maff.go.jp/j/seisaku\\_tokatu/boeki/kome\\_yunyuu.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/j/seisaku_tokatu/boeki/kome_yunyuu.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Finance (National Tax Agency) <https://www.nta.go.jp/english/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024



Laws and Regulations	Major Related Items	Supervising Government Agencies
Food Labeling Act	All food and beverages	<a href="#">Consumer Affairs Agency</a> <sup>21</sup>
Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards	Organic food	<a href="#">Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Office, Food Manufacture Affairs Division, New Business and Food Industry Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</a> <sup>22</sup>
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Caviar, ivory, wood incense, aloe, vanilla, agave, alligator jerky, bear meat, etc.	<a href="#">Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animal and Plants, Trade Licensing Division, Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry</a> <sup>23</sup>

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs, "1801 Outline of other relevant laws and ordinances referred to by Customs" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1801\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1801_e.htm), "List of import-related laws and regulations" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/2022\\_1\\_1/data/import.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/2022_1_1/data/import.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

### 2.2.1. Plant Protection Act

The Plant Protection Act is a law that regulates international plant quarantine (import restrictions, import prohibits, and export inspections), and domestic plant quarantine.<sup>24</sup>

The Plant Protection Act classifies imported plants into three categories: (1) import-prohibited items, (2) items exempted from import inspections, and (3) items requiring import inspections. It is necessary to confirm in advance which category the plants to be imported are classified under, and whether Phytosanitary Certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country must be attached.<sup>25</sup>

#### 1) Import-Prohibited Items

According to Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the Plant Protection Act, the following items are prohibited for import. Since the occurrence of plant pests and diseases varies from country to country and region to region, the importation of the same plant is prohibited in some countries and regions, whereas in others it is not. Even if the country producing the plant is not a country or region where plant pests have occurred, the importation may be prohibited if the plant passes through a country or region where plant pests have occurred, because of the possibility of pests being attached in the process.<sup>26</sup>

\*Please make use of the Plant Protection Station's database "[Database for importing](#)

<sup>21</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency: <https://www.caa.go.jp/en/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>22</sup> Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Office, Food Manufacture Affairs Division, New Business and Food Industry Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/jas/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>23</sup> Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animal and Plants, Trade Licensing Division, Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>24</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Plant Protection Act: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030004.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>25</sup> Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization, "Guide to Food Import 2023", [MIPROhttps://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English\\_Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English_Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>26</sup> Plant Protection Station, "Import Prohibition" (in Japanese), <https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/import/kinshi/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

[conditions<sup>27</sup>](#)", which allows you to search for import conditions by specifying the country, region and the name of plants.

**Table 6: Import-prohibited Items under the Plant Protection Act**

1.	Plants set forth in the Appended Table 2 of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act and sent from or via the areas listed in the said table
2.	Plants set forth in Appended Table 2-2 of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act (excluding those conforming to the standards listed in said table) and sent from or via the areas listed in the said table
3.	Plants set forth in the Appended Table 1-2 of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act (excluding those grown in areas set forth in said table)
4.	Live pests subject to plant quarantine
5.	Soil or plants to which soil is attached
6.	Containers or packages of items set forth in 1. to 5. above

Source: Plant Protection Station, "Import Prohibition" (in Japanese), <https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/import/ikinshi/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2) Items Exempted from Import Inspections

According to Article 6 of the Import Plant Quarantine Regulation, the following items are listed as items that do not require inspections.<sup>28</sup> To check whether the importing plants require inspection, please make inquiries to the Plant Protection Station after preparing the food production flowchart or list of ingredients, or other documents by which the name of the plant and used parts can be identified.

**Table 7: Items Exempted from Import Inspection under the Plant Protection Act**

➤	Processed tea (dried, heated, fermented, or otherwise processed tea), dried hop flowers and dried bamboo shoots
➤	Fermented vanilla beans
➤	Plants pickled in sulfurous acid, alcohol, acetic acid, sugar, salt, etc.
➤	Dried apricot, fig, persimmon, kiwi fruit, plum, pear, jujube, jujube palm, pineapple, banana, papaya, grape, mango, peach, and longan
➤	Granulated endocarp of coconut
➤	Dried spices sealed in containers for retail sale

Source: Plant Protection Station, "Plants Not Subject to Import Plant Quarantine" (in Japanese), <https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/import/ifuyou/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3) Items Requiring Import Inspections

- All plants that do not fall under the categories of "import-prohibited items" or "items exempted from import Inspections" are subject to import inspection. Prior to the inspection, an inspection certificate (known as "**Phytosanitary Certificate**") issued by the government agency of the exporting country must be submitted. If any pests or diseases are found as a result of the inspection, disinfection, disposal, or return shipment will be ordered. If disinfection is ordered, importing plants will be possible after disinfection. In addition, some plants are ordered to be grown in isolated areas in Japan to determine if they are harmful plants, and are inspected later at the site

<sup>27</sup> Plant Protection Station, "Database for importing conditions", <https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/e/notice.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>28</sup> Plant Protection Station, "Import Plant Quarantine Regulations" (in Japanese), [https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/law/houki/kokuji/kokuji\\_9.html\\_9.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/law/houki/kokuji/kokuji_9.html_9.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

where they are grown.<sup>29</sup>

- The [Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System \(NACCS\)](#)<sup>30</sup> is used for phytosanitary inspection procedures.

#### 4) International Plant Protection Convention

Japan is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), a framework for international cooperation in the prevention of the international spread of pests and diseases (183 countries and regions signed as of February 2017).<sup>31</sup>

### 2.2.2. Food Sanitation Act

To ensure the safety of imported foods and related products, Article 27 of the Food Sanitation Act obliges importers who import **foods and related products for the purpose of sales or businesses** to submit **import notification**.

Import notification is accepted at the quarantine stations, where a food sanitation inspector will examine whether the foods and related products are legitimate and decide whether the inspection is necessary. The subject of import notification includes **food, food additives, utensils, containers and packaging, and toys for infants**. The quarantine station accepts import consultations at each office,<sup>32</sup> including import procedures.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Plant Protection Act: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030004.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>30</sup> Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System (in Japanese), <https://bbs.naccscenter.com/naccs/dfw/web/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

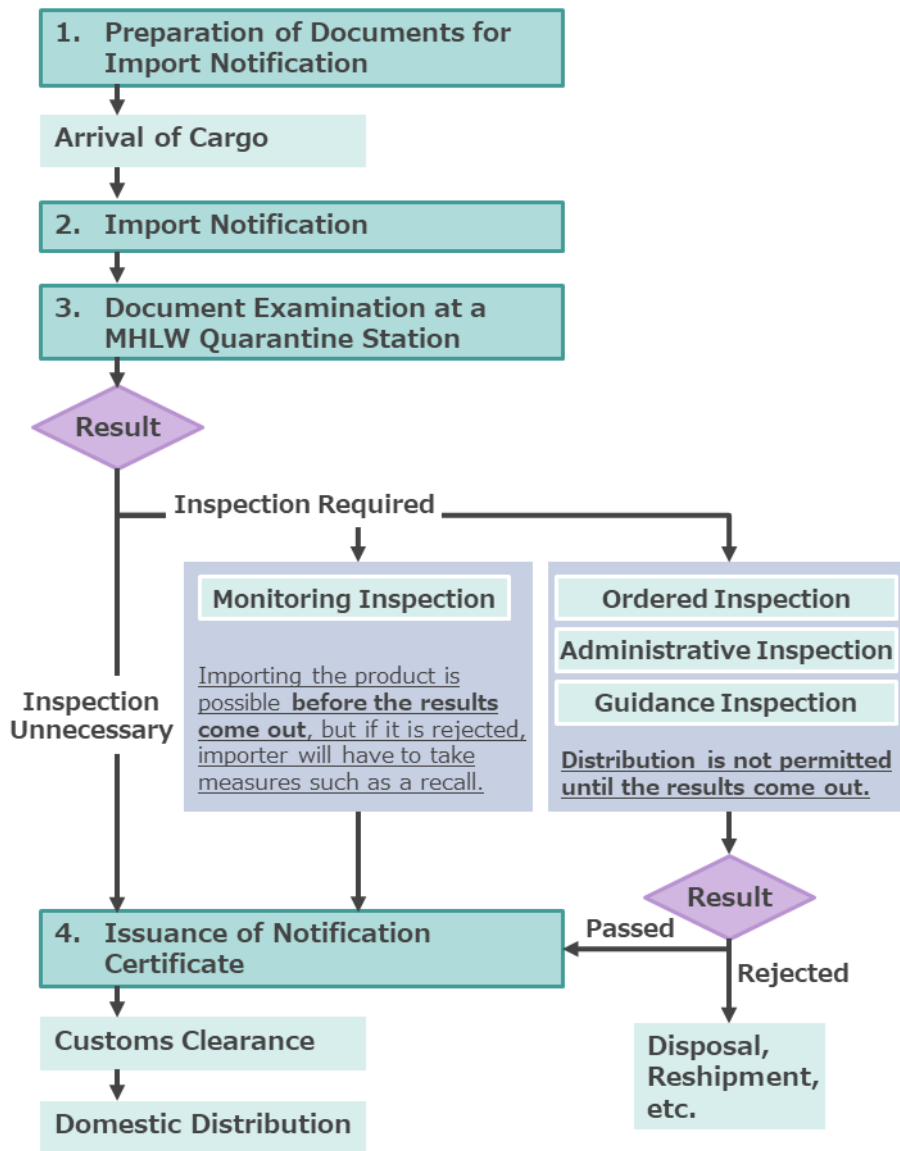
<sup>31</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Plant Protection Act: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030004.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>32</sup> List of quarantine station contacts: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mhlw.go.jp%2Fcontent%2F001150518.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>33</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act" [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu\\_kanshi/kanshi/index\\_00004.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/kanshi/index_00004.html), accessed on 9 August 2024



The flow of import procedures under the Food Sanitation Act is shown in **Figure 4**.



**Figure 4: Flow of import procedures under the Food Sanitation Act**

The detailed import procedures under the Food Sanitation Act are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Details of Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act**

Step		Details
1	Preparation of documents related to import notification of food, etc.	<p>Required Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Import notification</b> (refer to the <a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/kanshi/index_00004.htm">Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)'s website</a><sup>34</sup> or the imported food-related page of each quarantine station's website to download the format and instructions for filling out the form)</li> <li>✓ List of ingredients (required for processed foods)</li> <li>✓ Manufacturing process chart (required for processed foods)</li> <li>✓ Test report (Report of past voluntary inspections (guidance inspections). Submit as necessary for items with individual standards, etc.)</li> </ul>

<sup>34</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act" [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu\\_kanshi/kanshi/index\\_00004.htm](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/kanshi/index_00004.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

Step		Details
		<p>*In the case of unprocessed foods, a document showing the name and location of the exporter and packager and a document concerning the scientific names and varieties are required. If additives are used, a list of ingredients is also necessary.</p> <p>[Notes]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ The "Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc." (Positive List System) defines the limits of pesticide residues in each food product.</li> <li>➢ Standard values for individual pesticide residues, etc., can be found on the website of the Japan Food Chemical Research Foundation, "<a href="#">List of Limits for Pesticides, Veterinary Drugs and Feed Additives Residues in Food<sup>35</sup></a>".</li> <li>➢ Certain amounts of pesticides and other chemicals not on the positive list must be 0.01 ppm or less.</li> <li>➢ Please refer to the website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Notification related to "Pesticide Residues in Foods") for the latest information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Food additives and substances for which standards for use have been established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Beware of food additives such as coloring agents, colorants, preservatives, etc., the use of which is regulated in Japan.</li> <li>➢ The use of radiation for sterilization is permitted in some countries, but it is prohibited in Japan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	Import Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Make an import notification to the quarantine office in charge of the custom clearance location for the cargo.</li> <li>✓ Customs clearance procedures are becoming increasingly electronic, with electronic applications being used by the <a href="#">Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System (NACCS)<sup>36</sup></a>.</li> </ul>
3	Examination at the quarantine station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A food sanitation inspector at the quarantine station will examine the submitted documents.</li> <li>✓ As a result of the examination, if it is determined that an inspection is necessary, the following <a href="#">various inspections<sup>37</sup></a> are conducted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <b>Ordered inspection:</b> An inspection conducted under an inspection order from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare when it is determined that the foods and related products in question are highly suspected of violating the Food Sanitation Act. The cargo will be detained until the results of the inspection by the registered inspection agency designated by the Minister become revealed, and if the inspection results conform to the law, the importer may import the cargo. The importer is responsible for the cost of the inspection.</li> <li>➢ <b>Guidance Inspection (Voluntary Inspection):</b> The quarantine station accepts inspection results for inspections conducted voluntarily by importers at "the registered inspection agency designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare" or "official inspection agency of exporting countries".</li> <li>➢ Administrative inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ <b>Monitoring Inspection:</b> An inspection conducted by the quarantine station according to an annual plan, taking into consideration the import volume, violation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>35</sup> The Japan Food Chemical Research Foundation, "Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) List of Agricultural Chemicals in Foods", <https://db.ffcr.or.jp/front/>

<sup>36</sup> Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System (NACCS), <https://bbs.naccscenter.com/naccs/dfw/web/>

<sup>37</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Inspections", <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000523312.pdf>, accessed on 9 August 2024

Step		Details
		<p>rate, and risk of sanitary problems for each type of target products. Importers can proceed cargo import procedures and distribution before the inspection results are revealed. There is no inspection fee, however, the importer is responsible for unpacking and other cargo handling costs.</p> <p>✧ <b>Administrative inspections other than monitoring inspections:</b>  If there is a suspicion of a sanitation problem for reasons such as an accident during transport, a food sanitation inspector will visit the location where the relevant cargo is located and conduct an inspection of the actual product. Depending on the circumstances, samples may be taken for inspection and analysis. The cargo will be detained until the results of the inspection are revealed. There is no inspection fee, however, the importer is responsible for unpacking and other cargo handling costs.</p>
4	Issuance of Certificate of Notification for Importation of Foods, etc.	<p>✓ Cargo that does not require inspection or is determined to have no problem as a result of inspection will be issued a Certificate of Notification of Importation of Food, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "Notification Certificate").</p> <p>✓ If the examination or inspection results in a violation of the law, the product cannot be sold, etc. in Japan, and the importer will take measures such as disposal or reshipment.</p>

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Import Procedure under Food Sanitation Act" [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryou/shokuhin/yunyu\\_kanshi/kanshi/index\\_00004.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/kanshi/index_00004.html), Japan External Trade Organization, "Food Sanitation Act: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030003.html>, "Import Procedure of Spices: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

There is a system available to simplify and expedite the procedures for import notification. For details, please refer to the MHLW's website "[System for Simplified and Expedited Systems of Import Procedures of Food and Related Items](#)".<sup>38</sup>

### 2.2.3. Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

#### 1) Tariff Classification

Pharmaceuticals are classified under the tariff classification as shown in Table 9. **Cosmetics are also included under the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Regenerative and Cellular Therapy Products, Gene Therapy Products, and Cosmetic Law (hereafter referred to as the "Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices")**. The HS code of the subject items varies depending on their ingredients, properties, condition, etc., so please refer to the [Japan's Tariff Schedule](#)<sup>39</sup> or check with the customs office for confirmation.

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Simplified and Expedited Systems of Import Procedures" <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000523315.pdf>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>39</sup> Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule", <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

**Table 9 Tariff Classification of Medicinal Products**

Name of products	HS Code <sup>40</sup>
Pharmaceutical products (not for retail use)	HS3003
Pharmaceuticals (for retail use)	HS3004
Absorbent cotton, gauze, bandages and other products impregnated or coated with medicinal products (for retail use)	HS3005
Blood grouping reagents, etc.	HS3006

Source: Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2) Required Documents and Procedures

Business operators selling pharmaceuticals or quasi-pharmaceutical products in Japan are required to obtain a "**License for marketing and manufacturing pharmaceuticals**". The manufacturer must also obtain a "**License for manufacturing pharmaceuticals**" for final packaging, Japanese-language labeling, storage, testing and inspection, etc.<sup>41</sup>

The above permission is also required for manufacturers outside Japan who manufacture pharmaceutical products or quasi-pharmaceutical products that are exported to Japan. The certification procedures and special exceptions are as follows.<sup>42</sup>

- Accreditation for Foreign Manufacturers
  - Foreign manufacturers also must be accredited by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (Article 13-3 of the Act).
  - Applications should be submitted to [Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency \(PMDA\)](#)<sup>43</sup>.
  - Although a Japanese manufacturer or distributor of a pharmaceutical product manufactured by a foreign manufacturer may undertake the certification procedure on behalf of the foreign manufacturer, the applicant must be the foreign manufacturer.
  - The paperwork for certification takes approximately 5 months.
- Special approval regarding pharmaceuticals manufactured in a foreign country (Article 19-2 of the Act)
  - It is also possible for a foreign manufacturer to directly obtain a "manufacturing and marketing approval for pharmaceuticals" from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.
  - However, only distributors who are appointed by the foreign manufacturer at the time of application may sell the imported pharmaceuticals.

<sup>40</sup> HS Codes are as of 9 August 2024.

<sup>41</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>42</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>43</sup> [Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency](#), <https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2.2.4. Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act

The Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act is an act to implement control or coordinate foreign exchange and foreign trade to the minimum extent of necessity for the purpose of the normal development of foreign trade and other foreign transactions, and for the maintenance of peace and security of Japan and the international community.<sup>44</sup>

Specific methods of import control are stipulated in the **Import Trade Control Order, Public Announcement on Import**, etc. Permission or approval from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry is required for the import of specific goods, import of goods with a specific country or region of origin or place of shipment.<sup>45</sup> For details, please refer to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's website "[Trade Control](#)".<sup>46</sup>

There are five systems listed in Table 10 related to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act.

**Table 10: Systems Related to Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act**

System	Overview	Major Items
Import Quota (IQ)	System in which the quantity or value of imported goods is allocated to importers, etc. based on domestic demand, etc. (quantitative restrictions)	Herring, cod, yellowtail, and other inshore fish., scallops, squid, edible seaweed, seaweed conditioned food products, etc.
Approval under item (ii)	System requiring approval for imports pertaining to a specific origin or shipping area (restrictions on specific regions)	Salmon, trout and their processed products originating from or loaded in China, North Korea, Taiwan, etc.
Approval under item (ii)-2	System requiring approval for certain shipments regardless of origin or shipping area (restrictions on all regions)	Fauna and flora listed in Appendix I of CITES and derivatives thereof
Prior confirmation	System under which an importer who has obtained prior confirmation by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, etc. is permitted to import specified goods without approval.	Frozen tuna, Antarctic toothfish, frozen crabs, fauna and flora listed in appendices II and III of the CITES and derivatives thereof, etc.
Confirmation upon customs clearance	System whereby imports of certain goods do not require approval by submitting specified documents to customs at the time of import clearance.	Fresh or chilled tuna, crab, fauna and flora listed in Appendices II and III of the CITES and derivatives thereof, etc.

Source: Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2023), "Guide to Food Import 2023" [https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2.2.5. Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch

The Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch is a price adjustment system that grants a subsidy equivalent to the difference between the production and manufacturing costs of domestically produced products and the sales amount of such products to producers and

<sup>44</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Regarding Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" (in Japanese), [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/01\\_seido/01\\_gaitame/gaiyou.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/01_seido/01_gaitame/gaiyou.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>45</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Regarding Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" (in Japanese), [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/01\\_seido/01\\_gaitame/gaiyou.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/01_seido/01_gaitame/gaiyou.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>46</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Trade Control" [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/trade_control/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

manufacturers of domestically produced products, in order to correct the disadvantage for Japanese producers resulting from the difference in production conditions from those of other countries. The adjustment fee collected from inexpensive imported products is used as the main source of funding.<sup>47</sup>

When importing applicable sugar and starch, a documented sales contract must be concluded between the Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation (ALIC) and the importer prior to the import declaration, and the difference between the sale and purchase must be paid to ALIC as the levies (=adjustment fee) of designated sugar and starch.<sup>48</sup>

### 3) Sugar Products Subject to Sale and Purchase with ALIC

- “Designated saccharide” includes raw sugar, refined sugar, rock sugar, cube sugar that have undergone molasses separation (sugar from which molasses have been separated by centrifugation, etc.).
- “Imported high-fructose corn syrup, etc.” covers imported high-fructose corn syrup and imported mixed high-fructose corn syrup.
- Items falling under “Designated saccharide” and “Imported high-fructose corn syrup” are shown in **Table 11**.

**Table 11: Designated Saccharide and High-Fructose Corn Syrup**

Saccharides		HS Code	Remarks
Designated saccharide	Raw sugar	1701.12-100 1701.14-110	Sugar made from sugar cane and sugar beet that has undergone molasses separation, and its dried state has a sucrose content of less than 98.5 degrees by total weight on a sugar tester (excluding refined sugar, powdered sugar with added starch and other similar products, flavored and colored products).
	Refined sugar	1701.99-200	Sugar made from sugar cane and sugar beet, which has undergone molasses separation and a refining process in the manufacturing process (excluding those which have undergone secondary processing, such as molding with the addition of coloring or flavoring in the manufacturing process) and chemically pure sucrose
	Rock sugar	1701.91-000 1701.99-100	Rock sugar and other similar products (including flavored and colored products)
	Cube sugar	1701.91-000 1701.99-100	Cube sugar and other similar articles (including flavored and colored products)
	Specialty sugar	High-sugar content raw sugar 1701.12-200 1701.14-200 1701.99-200	Sugar made from sugar cane and sugar beet that has undergone molasses separation, and its dried state has a sucrose content of equivalent to 98.5 degrees or higher by total weight on a sugar tester (excluding refined sugar, powdered sugar with added starch and other similar products, flavored and colored products).
	Flavored colored sugar	1701.91-000	Sugar made from sugar cane and sugar beet that has undergone molasses separation (excluding those classified in other classifications in this Table).

<sup>47</sup> Japanese Law Translation, “Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch (Act No. 109 of 1965) <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3045/tb>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>48</sup> Japanese Law Translation, “Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch (Act No. 109 of 1965) <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3045/tb>, accessed on 9 August 2024

Saccharides		HS Code	Remarks
	Powdered sugar Granulated sugar	1701.99-200	
	Sugared water	1702.90-211	Sugar water that has undergone molasses separation (excluding flavored or colored products)
	Flavored colored sugar water	2106.90-221	Sugar water that has undergone molasses separation (flavored or colored products).
	Other	1702.90-110	Sugar made from materials other than sugar cane or sugar beet that has undergone molasses separation
	Mixed sugar	1702.30-210 1702.40-210 1702.60-210 1702.90-521	Sugar (raw sugar, refined sugar, rock sugar, cube sugar, specialty sugar) mixed with glucose and other non-sugar saccharides (excluding flavored or colored products).
High-fructose corn syrup	High-fructose corn syrup	1702.30-229 1702.40-220 1702.60-220 1702.90-529	High-fructose corn syrup (*sugar consisting mainly of fructose or glucose which have been isomerized by enzyme or alkali from a sugar solution consisting mainly of glucose obtained by enzymatic or acid hydrolysis of starch), excluding flavored and colored products.
	Mixed high-fructose corn syrup	1702.30-210 1702.30-229 1702.40-210 1702.40-220 1702.60-210 1702.60-220 1702.90-521 1702.90-529	High-fructose corn syrup (same as *above) and sugar other than sugar and other isomerized sugar, excluding flavored and colored products.

Source: Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation, "Procedures for selling and purchasing sugar" (in Japanese) <https://www.alic.go.jp/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

#### 4) Starch Subject to Sale and Purchase with ALIC

Starch imported under import quota<sup>49</sup> as starch for the manufacture of starch sugar, dextrin, dextrin glue, soluble starch, roasted starch or starch glue is subject for sales and purchase with ALIC.

**Table 12: Starch for Sale and Purchase**

List of items	HS Code
Corn starch <sup>50</sup>	1108.12.010
	1108.12.091
Potato starch	1108.13.010
	1108.13.091
Manioc (cassava or tapioca) starch	1108.14.010
	1108.14.091
Sago starch	1108.19.011
	1108.19.017

<sup>49</sup> The import quota system is a system that protects domestic producers by applying no or low tariff rates (primary tariff rates) only within a certain import quantity quota to ensure the supply of inexpensive imports to consumers, while applying high tariff rates (secondary tariff rates) to imports that exceed this certain import quantity quota.

<sup>50</sup> Corn used in the production of cornstarch and imported under tariff quotas (HS code: 1005.90-091) is also subject to sale and purchase.



List of items	HS Code
Other starch	1108.19.091
	1108.19.097

Source: Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation, "Procedures for selling and purchasing designated starch" (in Japanese) <https://www.alic.go.jp/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2.2.6. Food Labeling Act

### 1) Enforcement of the Food Labeling Act (April 1, 2015)

In 2015, the previous provisions on labeling under the Food Sanitation Act, the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards, and the Health Promotion Act were consolidated into the Food Labeling Act. The Act requires manufacturers, processors, importers, or sellers of food products to comply with food labeling standards (Article 5).<sup>51</sup> For details, please refer to the [Consumer Affairs Agency's website](#)<sup>52</sup>. For product-specific labeling standards, please refer to the Consumer Affairs Agency's [Food Labeling Guide](#)<sup>53</sup>.

The main items for which labelling standards have been established are as follows.

- Items relating to quality: names of ingredients, content, country of origin, etc.
- Items relating to sanitation: additives, expiration dates, storage methods, allergens and place of manufacture, etc.
- Items relating to health: nutritional ingredients, etc.
- Others: labeling about genetic modification, etc.

### 2) Precautions for Imported Rice Flour Products

"Gluten-free labeling" in other countries and "allergy labeling" in Japan have different standards. Therefore, it is necessary to check the status of allergens in raw materials and label them appropriately.<sup>54</sup>

Highlighting "gluten-free" on a food product containing wheat allergens may cause problems under the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations and other regulations, because consumers may assume that the product does not contain wheat allergens.<sup>55</sup> Refer to **Table 13** and make sure that the food labeling is in line with allergy labeling in Japan.

<sup>51</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency, "Food Labelling", [https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food\\_labeling](https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food_labeling), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>52</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency, "Food Labelling", [https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food\\_labeling](https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food_labeling), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>53</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency (Revised in March 2024), "Food Labelling Guide", [https://www.shokuhyoji.jp/pdf/pamphlet\\_guide\\_en.pdf](https://www.shokuhyoji.jp/pdf/pamphlet_guide_en.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>54</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency (2016), "To Importers of Rice Flour Products" (in Japanese), [https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food\\_labeling/food\\_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy\\_180208\\_0001.pdf](https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food_labeling/food_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy_180208_0001.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>55</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency (2016), "To Importers of Rice Flour Products" (in Japanese), [https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food\\_labeling/food\\_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy\\_180208\\_0001.pdf](https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food_labeling/food_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy_180208_0001.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024



**Table 13: Differences between "Gluten-Free Labeling" and "Allergy Labeling" in Japan**

Gluten-Free Labeling in EU, US, etc.	Domestic Allergy Labeling
<p>✓ "Gluten Free" labeling is available from the perspective of contributing to the selection of products for people with celiac disease. When labeling, the <b>gluten concentration</b> must be <b>less than 20 ppm</b>.</p>	<p>✓ Since food allergies can be caused by very small amounts of allergens, foods containing specified ingredients such as wheat must, in principle, be labeled as containing such specified raw materials, regardless of their intended use as ingredients.</p> <p>✓ If the product contains more than a <b>few ppm</b> of total wheat protein, a wheat allergy must be <b>labelled related to a wheat allergy on the container packaging</b>.</p> <p>✓ If the possibility of contamination cannot be ruled out, it is recommended to label a warning for those with food allergic disease.</p>

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on Consumer Affairs Agency (2016), "To Importers of Rice Flour Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food\\_labeling/food\\_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy\\_180208\\_0001.pdf](https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food_labeling/food_sanitation/allergy/pdf/allergy_180208_0001.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

### 2.2.7. Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards

The Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) is a nationwide unified standard that includes quality standards and labeling standards for agricultural products (food and beverages, agricultural products, forest products, livestock products, and fishery products). This is stipulated in the "Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards".<sup>56</sup> For details on this act, please refer to the [website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries](#)<sup>57</sup>.

#### 1) JAS System

Based on the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards, the JAS system defines the quality and labeling of agricultural products and processed foods. JAS system consists of the "Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) system" and the "Quality Labelling Standards System".<sup>58</sup>

#### 2) Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) system

The "Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) system" allows products that have passed grading inspections based on the Japanese Agricultural Standards established by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to be affixed with the JAS mark. There are two types of JAS: General JAS and Specific JAS. Standards that set standards for special production and manufacturing methods are called Specific JAS. Organic agricultural products and processed organic agricultural products are also regulated under the Specific JAS.

Please note that because the JAS is a voluntary system, there are some items that do not bear the JAS mark even if they conform to the JAS standards.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards", <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/jas/law.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>57</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)", <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/jas/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>58</sup> International Nature Farming Research Center, "Outline of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards" (in Japanese) [https://www.infrc.or.jp/organic-certificatio/jas\\_worker/458/](https://www.infrc.or.jp/organic-certificatio/jas_worker/458/), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>59</sup> International Nature Farming Research Center, "Outline of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards" (in Japanese) [https://www.infrc.or.jp/organic-certificatio/jas\\_worker/458/](https://www.infrc.or.jp/organic-certificatio/jas_worker/458/), accessed on 9 August 2024

### 3) Organic JAS

Organic JAS designate three categories: "organic plants", "organic processed foods (organic processed foods of plant origin, organic processed foods of animal origin, and organic processed foods of plant and animal origin)," and "organic livestock products." These are designated as specified agricultural and forestry products, which need proper labeling regarding their name of products, in particular. Accordingly, the labels "organic", etc. cannot be used unless the products have been labelled with the Organic JAS Mark by a certified operator as fulfilling the Organic JAS requirements.<sup>60</sup>

Organic alcoholic beverages were not previously subject to JAS, but the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards has been revised, and as of October 1, 2022, alcoholic beverages must be JAS-certificated as organic processed foods and be labeled the Organic JAS mark in order to be labelled as "organic", or similar.<sup>61</sup>

You may use either of the following methods (1) or (2) to label imported food products with the Organic JAS mark.<sup>62</sup>

- ① Organic agricultural products, organic processed foods, and organic livestock products produced or manufactured in countries approved by Japan for organic equivalency are imported by certified Japanese importers and distributed with the Organic JAS Mark affixed. (A certificate or copy of a certificate issued by the government agency of the exporting country must be attached to affix the Organic JAS mark.)
- ② Organic food products produced and manufactured by overseas JAS-certified organic businesses and affixed with the Organic JAS mark are imported and distributed. (Since the products are already JAS-certified organic, they can be imported without being a certified importer.)

### 2.2.8. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Those who wish to import animals and plants regulated by CITES must obtain an **"Export permit/a re-export certificate"** issued by the exporting country, as well as a **"Certificate of import approval"** or **"Certificate of prior confirmation"** issued by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, depending on the species concerned.<sup>63</sup> For details, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry [The Convention on International Trade](#)

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<sup>60</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "JAS Utilization Manual" (in Japanese) <https://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/attach/pdf/index-11.pdf>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>61</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "JAS Utilization Manual" (in Japanese) <https://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/attach/pdf/index-11.pdf>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>62</sup> Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2023), "Guide to Food Import 2023" [https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>63</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)", [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

[in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)<sup>64</sup>](#).

Regulated plants and animals are listed in the Annex to CITES. All names of animals and plants are written in Latin scientific names, so please refer to the [Appendices<sup>65</sup>](#) after looking up the Latin scientific name. You can also search at the [CITES Secretariat database<sup>66</sup>](#) .

### 2.2.9. Other Regulations

- High Pressure Gas Safety Act  
A certificate indicating that the product is exempt from the High Pressure Gas Safety Act is required for import customs clearance of aerosol products such as spray-type products. Exemptions are deemed to apply when the importer has prepared a prescribed test report and it has been confirmed that the product meets the requirements specified in a public notice by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (content volume of 1 liter or less, internal pressure of 0.8 megapascal or less).<sup>67</sup>
- Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations/Fair Competition Code  
In addition to the Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, the Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations/Fair Competition Code also prohibits sales with excessive premiums and exaggerated or false representations that may mislead consumers.<sup>68</sup>
- The Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (commonly known as “The Containers and Packaging Recycling Law”)  
Containers and packaging sold as products must comply with the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law.<sup>69</sup>
- Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act  
Some sleeping pills and other medicines that may cause addiction on the central nervous system should be carefully checked to ensure that they do not violate the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act, the Cannabis Control Act, the Stimulants Control Act, the Opium Control Act, etc.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, “The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)”, [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>65</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, “Appendices” <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>66</sup> CITES Secretariat, “Species+” <https://speciesplus.net/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>67</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals” (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>68</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals” (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>69</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals” (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>70</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Import Procedures for Pharmaceuticals” (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030009.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2.3. Tariff System

### 2.3.1. Overview

#### 1) Japanese Tariff System

A tariff is a tax imposed on imported goods. Tariff rates vary depending on the destination country/region and the imported product, but Japan tariff rates are determined based on "laws" and "international treaties" as follows.

**Table 14: Overview of Rules and Agreements on Tariff Rates in Japan**

Tax Rates Rules and Agreements	Overview
Law	<p>In Japan, tax rates are set by the "Customs Tariff Act" and "Temporary Customs Tariff Measures Act".</p> <p><u>Customs Tariff Act</u>: The basic tariff rate is set.</p> <p><u>Temporary Customs Tariff Measures Act</u>: The Act provides for temporary tariff rates to be applied in place of the basic tariff rates when the basic tariff rates are temporarily inapplicable, and these rates take precedence over the general rate. The Law also provides for preferential rates applicable to imports from developing countries and regions (For details, please refer to "2.3.4. Preferential and Other Special Measures").</p>
International treaty	<p>The "Conventional tariff rate" and the "Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) rate" are based on international treaties.</p> <p><u>WTO Rate</u>: Any tariff rate in excess of WTO bound one set forth in the schedule of concessions under the WTO Agreement is not applicable to products from all the WTO member countries and regions. If the tariff rate is lower than the national tariff rate, it is applied equally to products from WTO member countries/regions.</p> <p><u>Rates Based on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA Rates)</u>: These rates apply only to products imported from countries with which an EPA has been concluded. The EPA provides for a lower tax rate than the effective tax rate under MFN<sup>71</sup>. In the Oceania region, Japan has concluded an EPA with Australia, but not with other Pacific Island Countries and Territories (as of July 2024).</p>

Source: Japan Customs, "How tariffs work" (in Japanese), [https://www.customs.go.jp/shiryo/kanzei\\_shikumi.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/shiryo/kanzei_shikumi.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

#### 2) Relevant Institutions, Agreements and Laws

The following are some of the institutions and laws related to tariffs. For details, please refer to the links.

- Generalized System of Preferences<sup>72</sup>:  
[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1501\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1501_e.htm)
- Status of agreements on tariffs, such as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)<sup>73</sup>:  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/fta/index.html>
- English translations of relevant laws such as the Customs Act, the Customs Tariff Act,

<sup>71</sup> MFN means "Most Favored Nation Treatment". MFN principle is one of the WTO Agreement's basic principles, and is based on the idea that countries should treat all their trade partners equally.

<sup>72</sup> Japan Customs, "1501 Outline of Japan's GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) (FAQ)", accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>73</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, "Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Related Initiatives", accessed on 9 August 2024

the Temporary Customs Tariff Measures Act, etc.<sup>74</sup> :

[https://www.kanzei.or.jp/kanzei\\_law/01.htm](https://www.kanzei.or.jp/kanzei_law/01.htm)

### 3) List of Tariffs

Tariffs vary depending on the country/region of import destination and the imported product, and they could be revised as needed. Please check the latest tariff information (tariff classification and tariffs) on the website of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.<sup>75</sup>

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>

## 2.3.2. Item Classification

### 1) HS Code

Import/export items are assigned a number called an HS code. For an overview of HS codes, please refer to Table 15.

**Table 15 Overview of HS Code**

Item	Overview
Overview of HS Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HS codes are six-digit code numbers used to globally standardize the classification of all trade products, determine tariff rates, determine rules of origin, and identify regulated products.</li> <li>● The HS Code is based on the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, to which 160 countries including Japan and the European Union (EU) are parties. As of April 2024, 160 countries and regions, including Japan, have acceded to the Convention. When countries and territories that are non-member states but use HS codes are included, more than 200 countries and territories use HS codes.</li> <li>● The HS classification revisions are to be reviewed approximately every five years. It was reviewed most recently in 2022.</li> </ul>
Notes on HS Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The amount of tariff to be entered on the import declaration form at the time of import declaration is calculated based on the tariff rates established for each HS code for many items that are ad valorem duty items.<sup>76</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to correctly identify the HS code in order to ascertain the correct tariff amount.</li> <li>● The six-digit HS codes are classified based on the same rules in HS member countries/regions and HS code-using countries/regions. However, since the HS code is determined in each importing country/region, there are cases where the same product is classified differently in each importing country/region. In addition, because determining HS code classification requires a high level of expertise, if the importer proceeds with the import procedure by simply using the code notified by the exporter, there is a risk that the importer will later receive a correction from customs or be required to file an amended declaration. When importing new goods, it is recommended that importers always confirm HS codes and tariff rates with the customs authorities of the importing country through the importer, for example, by using the Customs' "Advance ruling system"<sup>77</sup> of tariff classification.</li> </ul>

<sup>74</sup> Japan Tariff Association, "Terms of Use (Web English Tariff Law)" [https://www.kanzei.or.jp/kanzei\\_law/01.htm](https://www.kanzei.or.jp/kanzei_law/01.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024. The English translations posted on the JCPA website are not official translations, and the Japanese laws and regulations have legal force.

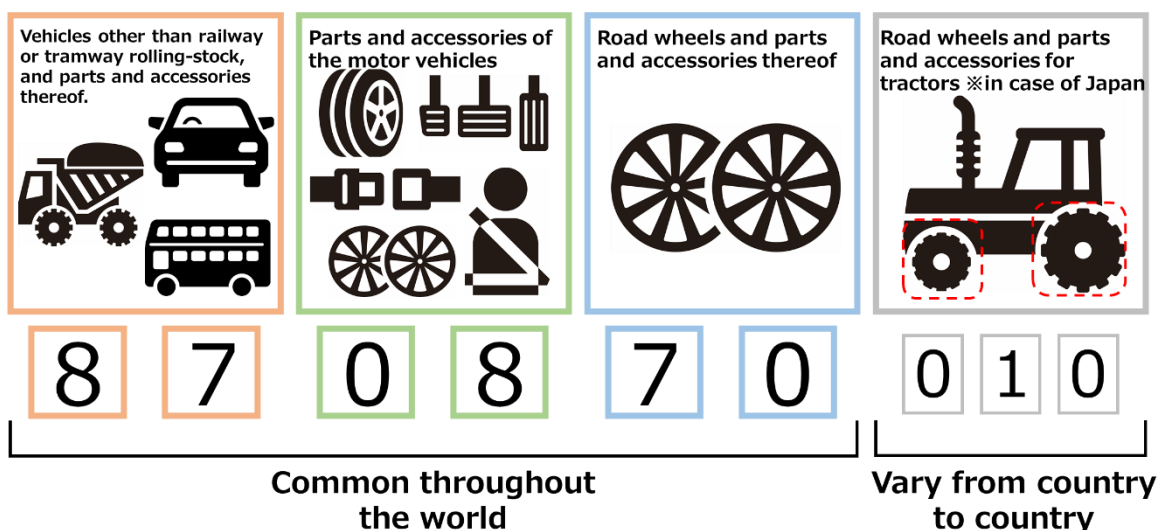
<sup>75</sup> Japan Customs, "Japan's Tariff Schedule ( Statistical Code for Import )", accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>76</sup> Certain items are subject to duties on weight, which are referred to as specific tariff items.

<sup>77</sup> The Advance Classification Ruling System is a system in which the importers and other related parties can inquire about the tariff classification (tariff code) and tariff rate of the goods prior to importation and receive a response from customs. (Quoted from Tokyo Customs website: <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>)

Item	Overview
Composition of HS Code (See the figure below for an image of the configuration.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HS Code classifies trade items into 21 "Sections" and indicates them with six digits: the first two digits are called "Chapter," the first four digits including the Chapter are called "Heading," and the first six digits including the Heading are called "Sub-heading," and the total of the six digits up to the Sub-heading is globally standardized.</li> <li>For numbers after the sixth digit of the HS Code, each country may set any number, such as a statistical subdivision, in accordance with its domestic laws. In Japan, the 7th to 9th digits are used for import/export statistical subdivisions, and the 10th digit is used for NACCS (an online system for processing procedures with customs and other relevant administrative agencies and related private sector operations, operated by Nippon Automated Cargo And Port Consolidated System Inc.,)</li> </ul>

Source: Japan Customs "Classification of Items and HS" (in Japanese) [https://www.customs.go.jp/zeikan/seido/bunrui\\_hs.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/zeikan/seido/bunrui_hs.htm), Japan External Trade Organization "HS Code" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04A-010701.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024



**Figure 5: HS Code Structure (Automobile)**

Source : Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry "Check HS Codes for Export Products" (in Japanese) <https://www.jcci.or.jp/gensanchi/step.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

## 2) HS Code Item Classification List (Overview)

HS codes and tariff classifications for each item category can be found on the website of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.

Tariff Classification Search<sup>78</sup>: <https://www.customs.go.jp/searchsv/jitsv002.jsp>

### 2.3.3. Regulated Items

#### 1) Items for which Imports are Prohibited

As of July 2024, the following items are prohibited from being imported into Japan under the Customs Act.<sup>79</sup> Importation of these items may be punishable under the Customs Act and

<sup>78</sup> Japan Customs, "Advance Rulings on Tariff Classification", <https://www.customs.go.jp/searchsv/jitsv002.jsp>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>79</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024



other applicable laws.<sup>80</sup>

- Narcotics, psychotropic drugs, cannabis, opium, opium straw, stimulants (including those raw materials) and utensils for smoking opium.
- Designated substances (excluding those to be imported for medical use, etc.)
- Pistols, rifles, machine guns, cannons and their bullets and pistol parts.
- Explosives
- Gunpowder, etc.
- Specified substances prescribed in Paragraph 3, Article 2 of the Act on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Control of Specific Chemicals
- Class I pathogen prescribed in Paragraph 20, Article 6 of the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases and Class II pathogen prescribed in Paragraph 21, Article 6 of the law
- Counterfeited, altered or imitated coins, paper money, bank notes, revenue stamps, postal stamps and securities; cards encoded with an unlawful electromagnetic record (including those materials)
- Books, drawings, sculptures and other articles that are considered to injure public safety or morals
- Child pornography
- Articles which infringe patent rights, utility model rights, design rights, trademark rights, copyrights and neighboring rights, integrated circuits layout design rights, or plant breeders' rights.
- Articles which constitute the unfair competition listed in Item 1 through 3 or 10 through 12, Paragraph 1, Article 2 of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act

In addition to the above, Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (see "2.2 Laws and Regulations Related to Trade Control"), Plant Protection Act (see "2.2.1 Plant Protection Act"), Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law (see "2)Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock" of "3.8.2. Major legal regulations") and other laws and regulations prohibit the importation of certain items.<sup>81</sup> For example, "Kava," a plant native to Pacific Island Countries and Territories, is designated as an unapproved and unpermitted medicine in Japan, and its quality, efficacy, and safety have not been confirmed in accordance with the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in Japan.<sup>82</sup>

Also, please note that some products such as aroma oils, herbs, and bath salts that are sold under the guise of being legal fall under the category of "narcotics" or "designated

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<sup>80</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions"  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>81</sup> Japan Customs, "1801 Outline of other relevant laws and ordinances referred to by Customs (FAQ)"  
[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1801\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1801_e.htm), accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>82</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Unapproved and Unlicensed Drug Information" (in Japanese)  
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/kinkyu/diet/musyounin.html>, accessed on 5 September 2024

substances," and their importation is prohibited.<sup>83</sup>

It is recommended to check the customs website for the most up-to-date information on items prohibited for import.

List of items prohibited for exporting to Japan<sup>84</sup>:

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>

## 2) Items whose Imports are Restricted

Various domestic laws and regulations, including those not related to customs, restrict the importation of goods that adversely affect Japan's industry, economy, insurance, health, public safety, and public morals.<sup>85</sup>

Except for customs-related laws and regulations, in cases where a license, approval, etc. is required under laws and regulations (hereinafter referred to as "other laws and regulations") that stipulate permission, approval, etc. for imports and exports, it is necessary to prove to customs at the time of import declaration or customs examination that imported items have obtained permission or approval of the other laws and regulations, and to obtain the confirmation from the customs.<sup>86</sup> In addition, depending on the laws, it may be necessary to obtain certification from an overseas government agency, etc. in order to obtain the permission or approval, etc. Therefore, it is important to thoroughly research the necessary documents, etc. in advance.<sup>87</sup>

Other import-related laws and regulations to be confirmed at customs and their competent ministries can be found on the customs website below, but if you have any questions, it is recommended to contact your local customs office through the importer. In addition, in order to ensure smooth import procedures, please consult with the competent ministries in advance when importing items subject to other laws and regulations.

Overview of other import-related laws and regulations to be confirmed by customs<sup>88</sup>:

[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1801\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1801_e.htm)

### 2.3.4. Preferential and Other Special Measures

#### 1) Preferential Tariff System and its Beneficiaries

Under the preferential tariff system, Japan applies reduced tariffs to designated import

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<sup>83</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions"  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>84</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions"  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>85</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions"  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>86</sup> Japan Customs, "Goods with Prohibitions, Controls and Restrictions"  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/prohibit.htm>, accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>87</sup> Japan Customs, "1801 Outline of other relevant laws and ordinances referred to by Customs (FAQ)"  
[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1801\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1801_e.htm), accessed on 5 September 2024

<sup>88</sup> Japan Customs, "1801 Outline of other relevant laws and ordinances referred to by Customs (FAQ)"  
[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1801\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1801_e.htm), accessed on 5 September 2024



products originating from developing countries/territories, aiming to help them increase export income, advance industrialization and promote economic development.<sup>89</sup> Preferential rates are applied to countries and regions that have requested preferential tariff on the grounds that their economies are still developing, when Japan deems it appropriate to do so.<sup>90</sup> Preferential rates are set at lower than the effective tariff rate (the lower of the statutory rate or WTO rate), and are applied to imports upon fulfillment of the conditions such as place of origin.

As shown in Table 16, there are two types of preferential tariffs: “Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)” and “Special preferential treatment.”

**Table 16: Overview of Preferential Tariffs**

Preferential tariff	Overview
Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under this system, preferential rates that are lower than the normal tariff rates or duty-free are applied to imports into Japan of items originating in developing countries that Japan recognizes as "GSP beneficiary" (excluding some exceptional items).</li> <li>As of April 1, 2024, there are 130 GSP beneficiaries (126 countries and 4 regions). The latest list of GSP beneficiaries can be found on the customs website below. List of GSP beneficiaries: <a href="https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1504_e.htm">https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1504_e.htm</a></li> </ul>
Special preferential treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Among beneficiaries, when importing products of origin from the least developed countries (LDCs) (47 countries/regions as of July 2024) recognized as "Special Preferential Treatment Beneficiaries", special preferential treatment is applied and, in principle, no duty is imposed.</li> <li>Of the 130 beneficiaries as of April 1, 2024, 44 countries have been designated as special preferential treatment beneficiaries (LDCs). (For LDC countries, please refer to the "List of GSP beneficiaries" above.)</li> </ul>

Source: Japan Customs “Outline of Rules of Origin for GSP Scheme in Japan” [https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/origin/gsp\\_roo.pdf](https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/origin/gsp_roo.pdf), “1501 Outline of Japan’s GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) (FAQ)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1501\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1501_e.htm), “1504 List of GSP Beneficiaries (Countries and Territories)(FAQ) : Japan Customs” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1504\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1504_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

Among Pacific Island Countries and Territories, 11 countries are designated as GSP beneficiaries or special preferential treatment beneficiaries as Table 17 shows (as of April 1, 2024). Nauru, Palau, and the Cook Islands are not designated as beneficiaries.

**Table 17: Preferential Tariff Beneficiaries in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories**

<b>GSP beneficiaries</b>	Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia
<b>Special preferential treatment beneficiaries (LDCs)</b>	Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu

Source: Japan Customs “1504 List of GSP Beneficiaries (Countries and Territories)(FAQ) : Japan Customs” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1504\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1504_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>89</sup> Japan Customs, “ORIGIN CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE” <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024  
<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan “JAPAN’S GSP (Generalized System of Preferences)” <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/gsp/index.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

## 2) Items Subject to Preferential Tariffs

Preferential tariffs are set for agricultural/fishery and industrial products according to different systems.<sup>91</sup>

**Table 18: Preferential Tariffs**

List of articles	How to set preferential tariffs
Agricultural/fishery products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preferential tariffs are granted only to certain items (called the positive list system), and preferential rates are set for each of these items.</li> <li>● Major items covered include octopus (5%), matsutake mushrooms (duty-free), dried bamboo shoots (7.5%), and spices (tax free).</li> </ul>
Industrial products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In principle, preferential tariffs are given to all items except for some exceptional items (e.g., leather and leather shoes) (called the negative list system). In principle, the preferential rates are duty-free, but some items are taxable.</li> <li>● Major duty-free items: paper products, ceramic products, steel products, etc.</li> <li>● Major dutiable items: handkerchiefs, carpets, etc.</li> </ul>

Source: Japan Customs “1503 Major products preferential tariff is applied to (FAQ)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1503\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1503_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

The 2007 tariff revision expanded the list of items eligible for special preferences for LDCs, making all items eligible for duty-free and quota-free treatment for LDCs in principle.<sup>92</sup> Under this treatment, the items covered by the preferential treatment have been increased from approximately 86% to 98%. The major items covered are listed in Table 19.<sup>93</sup>

**Table 19: LDC Duty-Free/Quota-Free Items  
(as of 2007, when the expansion treatment was implemented)**

	Major Items	Number of items	Percentage of total
Items covered	Crude oil, octopus, leather shoes, coffee, shrimp & prawn, men's suits, and sesame seeds, Bigeye tuna, heating oil, beans, yellowfin tuna, bonito, and common cuttlefish	8,859	98.1%
Exception Items	Rice & processed rice products, certain fishery products (mackerel, etc.), starch & processed starch products, corn for cornstarch, sugar, and certain leather products	176	1.9%
Total		9,035	100.0%

Source: Japan Customs “1508 Expanded Duty-Free, Quota-Free Market Access to from LDCs (Summary)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1508\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1508_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

### 2.3.5. Rules of Origin

Rules of Origin are the rules for determining the origin of goods.<sup>94</sup> Since tariff policies such as preferential tariffs and EPAs determine applicability based on the origin of the product, it is necessary to prove origin in accordance with the said rule.<sup>95</sup> If the production process is completed in one country, that country is the origin of the goods. However, if the goods are

<sup>91</sup> Japan Customs “1503 Major products preferential tariff is applied to (FAQ)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1503\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1503_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>92</sup> Japan Customs “1508 Expanded Duty-Free, Quota-Free Market Access to from LDCs (Summary)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1508\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1508_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>93</sup> Japan Customs “1508 Expanded Duty-Free, Quota-Free Market Access to from LDCs (Summary)” [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1508\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1508_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>94</sup> Japan Customs “Overview of Rules of Origin” <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/origin/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>95</sup> Japan Customs “Origin Certification Procedure” <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

produced in multiple countries (e.g., materials are produced in another country, only packaging is performed in another country, etc.), the country of origin among the multiple countries must be determined in accordance with the Rules of Origin.<sup>96</sup>

The Rules of Origin consist of "origin criteria," which set forth the standards for goods to be recognized as originating goods, and "origin certification procedure," which set forth the procedures for importers to declare the origin of goods at the time of importation and the ex-post confirmation procedures that may be conducted by customs in the importing country to the importer or the government, etc. of the exporting country.<sup>97</sup> Rules of Origin can be broadly classified into the following three categories according to policy objectives.<sup>98</sup>

- Rules of Origin for Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (rules for applying GSP rates)
- Rules of Origin for Economic Partnership Agreements (rules for applying EPA rates)
- Non-preferential rules of origin (rules for the application of WTO rates and the record of trade statistics, etc.)

Among these rules of origin, GSP and EPA require special procedures such as submission of a certificate of origin when importing into Japan. Table 20 and Table 21 provide an overview of these rules of origin.

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<sup>96</sup> Japan Customs "Origin Certification Procedure" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>97</sup> Japan Customs "Origin Certification Procedure" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>98</sup> Japan Customs "Overview of Rules of Origin" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/origin/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

**Table 20: Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Rules of Origin**

Rules of Origin	Overview
Origin criteria	<p>The "wholly obtained or wholly produced goods" and "the good produced through specified manufacturing or processing to non-originating materials as substantial transformation in a beneficially country." are determined to be originating goods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Wholly obtained or wholly produced goods</u>: Applied when the goods are fully produced in one country</li> <li>➤ <u>The good produced through specified manufacturing or processing to non-originating materials as substantial transformation in a beneficially country</u>: Applied when the raw materials or materials (in whole or in part) of the goods are goods of another country and they are produced by "processing or manufacturing that makes substantial changes.<sup>99</sup>".</li> </ul>
Origin certification procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Certificate of origin</li> </ul> <p>The exporter or producer of the goods applies to the issuing authority of the exporting country (or its designated agency)<sup>100</sup> to obtain a certificate of origin. The importer who receives the certificate submits it to the custom authorities of the importing country. (This is called the "Third-party certification system.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Submission of documents proving that the shipment standards are met (only when importing into Japan via a third country)</li> </ul> <p>To qualify for preferential rates, goods must be shipped directly from the country of origin to the importing country without passing through a third country, or if the goods are shipped through a third country, only permissible operations such as loading and unloading and storage must be performed in the third country. Documents proving that the loading and unloading standards have been met (through bill of lading, certificate issued by the customs office of the transit country, or other documents deemed appropriate by the customs director) must be submitted at the time of import declaration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Post confirmation</li> </ul> <p>After import clearance, customs will confirm whether the goods declared for import at preferential rates are of origin in the exporting country. Note that if the origin of the product cannot be verified, the preferential tax rate may be denied and, depending on the circumstances, the product may be subject to underpayment of additional tax, etc.</p>

Source: Japan Customs "Origin Certification Procedure" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>99</sup> Refers to processing or manufacturing in which the heading of tariff classification number (HS 4 digits) of the goods differs from the corresponding heading (HS 4 digits) of the non-originating materials used in the production of the goods in question

<sup>100</sup> According to the list of competent authorities issuing certificates of origin under the GSP issued by customs ([https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/gsp\\_authorities.pdf](https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/gsp_authorities.pdf)), the competent authority is the "Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperative" in Kiribati, and "Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade" in PNG (Other Pacific Island Countries and Territories are not listed).

**Table 21: Rules of Origin in Economic Partnership Agreements and Other Agreements**

Rules of Origin	Overview
Origin criteria	<p>The origin criteria vary among individual EPAs or other agreements, but basically, "wholly obtained or wholly produced goods," "goods produced exclusively from the original materials" and "goods that meet the substantial change criteria" are judged to be originating goods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Wholly obtained or wholly produced goods</u>: Applied when the goods are fully produced in one country</li> <li>➤ <u>Goods made exclusively from originating materials</u>: Applied when the goods are completely produced in a signatory country exclusively from materials of origin in that country. The difference between fully obtained or fully produced goods is that non-originating materials from a third country are used in the production of the goods when traced back to the materials used in the production of the originating materials. In that case, the good is recognized as an originating good.</li> <li>➤ <u>Goods meeting the substantial transformation criterion</u>: Applied when the final product is significantly changed from the original material (this is called "substantial transformation"), even if materials from a third country (non-originating materials) are used. In most of the agreements that Japan has concluded, the substantial transformation criterion is one or a combination of "Change in Tariff Classification (CTC) criterion," "Value Added (VA) criterion," or "Specific processing operation criterion".</li> </ul>
Origin certification procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Certificate of origin</li> </ul> <p>It differs for each agreement and is certified using either the "Self-Certification System"<sup>101</sup>, the "Approved Exporter Self-Certification System"<sup>102</sup>, or the "Third-party certification system" mentioned above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Submission of documents proving that the shipment standards are met (only when importing into Japan via a third country)</li> </ul> <p>The procedure is the same as described in Table 20: Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Rules of Origin above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Verification</li> </ul> <p>The procedure is the same as described in Table 20: Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Rules of Origin above.</p>

Source: Japan Customs "Origin Certification Procedure"

<https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

For more information on the Rules of Origin and its procedures, please refer to the customs website below.

Rules of Origin<sup>103</sup>: <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/index.htm>

Certificate of Origin procedure<sup>104</sup>: <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>

Table 22 shows the flow of procedures to apply the above Rules of Origin, including confirmation of the Rules of Origin and the origin procedures, for importing goods into Japan

<sup>101</sup> In the " Self-Certification System," the importer, exporter, or producer of a shipment prepares the declaration of origin by himself/herself, and the importer submits it to the customs office of the importing country to declare that the shipment is an originating product.

<sup>102</sup> The " Approved Exporter Self-Certification System" is a system under which an exporter certified by the competent authorities in the exporting country declares that the goods are of origin by clearly writing a declaration to the effect that the goods are of origin on an invoice or other commercial document and submitting it to customs in the importing country.

<sup>103</sup> Japan Customs, "Japan Customs promotes proper application of rules of origin", <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>104</sup> Japan Customs, "ORIGIN CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE", <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

at preferential rates such as GSP and EPA.

**Table 22: Steps to use GSP and EPA for Imported Goods**

Step	Implementing item	Main implementer	References in this guidebook
1	Check if the exporting country falls under GSP or has an EPA with Japan	Importer	2.3.4. Preferential and Other Special Measures " <a href="#">List of GSP Beneficiaries (Countries and Territories)</a> <sup>105</sup> " 2.3.1. Overview " <a href="#">Free Trade Agreement (FTA) / Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Related Initiatives</a> <sup>106</sup> "
2	Identification of the HS code and statistical subdivision of imported goods	Importer, exporter	2.3.2. Item Classification " <a href="#">Item Classification Search</a> <sup>107</sup> "
3	Check whether GSP/EPA tariff rates are set for imported good	Importer	2.3.1. Overview " <a href="#">Latest tariff information</a> <sup>108</sup> "
4	Identify applicable origin criteria	Importer	2.3.5. Rules of Origin " <a href="#">Rules of Origin</a> <sup>109</sup>
5	Check for compliance with origin criteria	Importer, exporter or producer	2.3.5. Rules of Origin " <a href="#">Rules of Origin</a> <sup>110</sup>
6	Procedures of origin in terms of imports	Importer, exporter or producer	2.3.5. Rules of Origin " <a href="#">Certificate of Origin procedure</a> <sup>111</sup> "
7	Application of GSP/EPA tariff rates	importer	2.3.5. Rules of Origin " <a href="#">Certificate of Origin procedure</a> <sup>112</sup> "
8	Respond to verification from Japan Customs, if necessary.	Importer, Exporter	2.3.5. Rules of Origin " <a href="#">Certificate of Origin procedure</a> <sup>113</sup> "

Source: Japan Customs "How to import to Japan using EPA" (in Japanese) [https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/information/epa/epa\\_im.html](https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/information/epa/epa_im.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

### 2.3.6. Taxes other than Tariffs

- Consumption tax imposed on imported goods

As a general rule, a 10% consumption tax (as of July 2024) will be imposed on imported goods into Japan that are picked up from bonded areas. The person who picks up the imported goods

<sup>105</sup> Japan Customs, "1504 List of GSP Beneficiaries (Countries and Territories)(FAQ) : Japan Customs" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1504\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1504_e.htm), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>106</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, "Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Related Initiatives" <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/fta/index.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>107</sup> Japan Customs "Advance Rulings on Tariff Classification" <https://www.customs.go.jp/searchsv/jitsv002.jsp>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>108</sup> Japan Customs, "Japan's Tariff Schedule (Statistical Code for Import)" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>109</sup> Japan Customs, "Japan Customs promotes proper application of rules of origin" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>110</sup> Japan Customs, "Japan Customs promotes proper application of rules of origin" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>111</sup> Japan Customs, "ORIGIN CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>112</sup> Japan Customs, "ORIGIN CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>113</sup> Japan Customs, "ORIGIN CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE" <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/procedure/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

is responsible for payment of the consumption tax.<sup>114</sup> Basically, the tax base of imported goods is the sum of the CIF (cost, insurance and freight), the amount of tariffs other than consumption tax, and an amount equivalent to individual consumption taxes.<sup>115</sup> As a general rule, the person who picks up the imported goods submits an import (tax) declaration form to the competent customs official, indicating the name, quantity, value, etc. of the goods and the amounts of duties and consumption taxes, and pays both duties and consumption taxes before picking up the imported goods.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Taxation of Consumption Tax on Imports: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04A-000915.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>115</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Taxation of Consumption Tax on Imports: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04A-000915.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>116</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Taxation of Consumption Tax on Imports: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04A-000915.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

**Column 1: "About Incoterms 2020."**

Incoterms are international rules that stipulate the terms and conditions of trade, such as the timing of risk transfer between the seller and buyer in trade transactions and the classification of cost burdens, such as freight charges and insurance premiums.<sup>117</sup> Incoterms have undergone multiple revisions in the past, with "Incoterms 2020" being the latest version (as of July 2024).<sup>118</sup>

**Incoterms2020 (International Commercial Terms)**

Incoterms		Inspecti on· Packing	Loadin g	Shipme nt	Export Clearan ce	Cargo Handli ng	Transp ort	Cargo Handli ng	Import Clearan ce	Deliver y	Unloadi ng
Ex Works	EXW	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Free Carrier	FCA	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Free alongside Ship *	FAS	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Free on Board *	FOB	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Cost and Freight *	CFR	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Cost Insurance and Freight *	CIF	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Carriage and Insurance Paid To	CIP	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Carriage Paid To	CPT	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Delivered at Place	DAP	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Delivered at Place Unloaded	DPU	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Delivered Duty Paid	DDP	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→

\* : Rules for carriage by sea and inland waterways  
 Cost/Risk Seller → Buyer → Insurance — Transfer of risk ▲

Interviews with several Japanese businesses importing goods from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to Japan revealed that they tended to prefer FOB (Free on Board), which allows buyers to select their own shipping companies and monitor ship operations. In some cases, the buyer, who used to use CIF (cost, insurance and freight), changed to FOB after discussing with the seller because the overseas remittance, including transportation and other costs, would result in higher handling fees.

<sup>117</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Incoterms 2020" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/J-200309.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024; DEXTRE, "Comparison of the characteristics of Incoterms CFR, CIF, CPT, and CIP [with illustrations]" (in Japanese) <https://dextre.app/ja/export-control/22518/>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>118</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Incoterms 2020" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/J-200309.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024



### **3. Examples of Import/Export Procedures**

## 3.1. Import/Export Procedures for Coffee

### 3.1.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 23: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) for Coffee**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Green Coffee Beans	Seeds prepared by removing the outer and inner skins and pulp from the coffee cherry. They are dried in the next processing step.	0901.11-000 0901.12-000
Roasted Coffee Beans	Roasted coffee beans prepared by roasting green coffee beans from coffee cherry. This category also includes coffee products from ground roasted beans.	0901.21-000 0901.22-000
Instant Coffee	Coffee in soluble powder, granules, and other solid forms prepared by drying extracts of roasted coffee beans	2101.11-210 2101.12-121

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.1.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Plant Protection Act

Since green coffee beans that have not been heat-treated are subject to plant quarantine, an application for inspection needs to be submitted to the Plant Protection Station of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at the time of import. Although a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the government agency of the exporting country was required to obtain phytosanitary inspection, green coffee beans were exempted from submitting a Phytosanitary Certificate from August 5, 2020, because the risk of contamination by quarantine pests and plants was judged to be low (import inspection is still required).<sup>119</sup>

If the inspection at the phytosanitary station reveals that the coffee beans are infested with pests or diseases, the importer may be ordered to take measures such as disinfection, extermination or disposal. In addition, coffee beans with soil attached cannot be imported.<sup>120</sup>

#### 2) Food Sanitation Act

##### ● Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the

<sup>119</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>120</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

customs.<sup>121</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act". In particular, instant coffee is classified as a "powdered carbonated drink" in the "Standards for foods and additives, etc.," and is subject to standards for ingredient specifications, production, and storage, etc., and care must be taken with containers and packaging, etc.<sup>122</sup>

### 3) Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)

When selling coffee-related products in Japan, it is necessary to label them in accordance with the quality labeling standards based on the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards. In addition, it is mandatory to label the country of origin for imported products.

In order to label products as "organic", it is necessary to be inspected and certified by Accredited Certification Bodies based on the Organic JAS.<sup>123</sup>

### 4) Food Labelling Act

When selling food products, it is necessary to pay attention to the labeling of food products, including the display of quality information such as ingredient names, country of origin, as well as hygiene related information such as additives, allergens, production facilities, etc., and the labeling of genetically modified organisms, etc. For details, please refer to "2.2.6 Food Labeling Act".<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>122</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>123</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>124</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Coffee" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010605.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## Column 2: "Characteristics of the Japanese Market and Points to Keep in Mind"

Several companies that import and sell coffee from Pacific Island Countries and Territories to Japan say, "In Japan, the grade of the coffee is emphasized, but the importance of this is often not recognized by the producers. Some producing countries have grading certification organizations, while others do not. In countries without certification organizations, only basic export standards are set, and each exporter evaluates the grade according to these standards. Even if the coffee taste is very good, if it is graded as a low grade, it will be difficult to be traded at a high price.

Green coffee beans are often graded by altitude, screen size (bean size), the number of defective beans, shape, or a combination of these factors.

Defective beans are imperfect beans that have been mixed in with the green coffee beans and include fermented beans, missing beans, crushed beans, and beans with too much moisture (as this can cause mold, the moisture content should be below 12-13%). Japanese importers and distributors often use a moisture meter to measure the moisture content when importing beans.

In countries that do not export large quantities of coffee, many growers are not aware of grades, but when exporting to Japan, where grades are important, it is necessary to pay special attention.

Source: Interviews with business operators

## 3.2. Import/Export Procedures for Honey

### 3.2.1. Tariff Classification

Honey has different tariff classifications depending on its characteristics. Since royal jelly, propolis, etc. are not assigned independent tariff classification numbers, the HS codes for similar foods are applied.<sup>125</sup>

**Table 24: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Honey-related Items**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Natural honey	Products with a moisture content of 20% or less at 20°C, a sucrose content of 5% or less of the total weight, and a total fructose and glucose content of 60% or more of the total weight.	0409.00
Artificial honey	A mixture based on sucrose, glucose or invert sugar, usually flavored or colored to imitate natural honey. Mixtures of natural honey and artificial honey also belong to this category.	1702.90.290
Royal jelly (beekeeping, apiculture)	Extracts of glands or other organs or their secretions	3001.20
Royal jelly-containing beverage	Water (including mineral water and carbonated water, but limited to water to which sugar or other sweetening or flavoring agents have been added), or other beverages not containing alcohol (excluding fruit, nut or vegetable juices referred to in Section 20.09)	2202.90
Propolis bulk	Products of animal origin, (not elsewhere specified or included) and animals of category 1 or 3 which are not alive and are not fit for human consumption.	0511.99
Propolis preparation with honey, etc. added	Food preparations (not elsewhere specified or included)	2106.90

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization "Import Procedures for Honey: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010972.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.2.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Food Sanitation Act

##### ● Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the

<sup>125</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import Procedures for Honey: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010972.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

customs.<sup>126</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

Because honey collected from the flowers of peanuts and buckwheat may cause allergies, there are regulations regarding the labeling of processed foods that contain allergenic substances.<sup>127</sup>

## 2) Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock

Depending on the level of processing, some honey products, such as honey that is commercialized in the hive state (com honey) and propolis bulk, may contain larvae or bee carcasses (designated quarantine items). As such, animal quarantine may be required. It is recommended to check with the [Animal Quarantine Service](#)<sup>128</sup> for the procedure to animal quarantine. In addition, if animal quarantine is required, a "certificate of quarantine inspection" issued by the quarantine agency of the exporting country, etc. is also required.<sup>129</sup>

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<sup>126</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import Procedures for Honey: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010972.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>127</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import Procedures for Honey: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010972.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>128</sup> Animal Quarantine Services "Animal quarantine information for travellers to Japan", <https://www.maff.go.jp/ags/languages/info.html#EN>

<sup>129</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import Procedures for Honey: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010972.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

### 3.3. Import/Export Procedures for Seafood

#### 3.3.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 25: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Major Seafoods**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Fish	Fresh or chilled fish, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat specified in item 03.04	0302
	Frozen fish, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat specified in item 03.04	0303
	Fresh, chilled or frozen fish fillets and other fish meat (whether or not minced)	0304
	Fish (dried, salted or in brine), smoked fish (whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process).	0305
Crustaceans	Crustaceans, whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine; smoked crustaceans, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process; crustaceans, in shell, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water, whether or not chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine.	0306
Molluscs	Molluscs, whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine; smoked molluscs, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process.	0307
Aquatic invertebrates	Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine; smoked aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process	0308
Flour, meal and pellets	Flours, meals and pellets of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, fit for human consumption.	0309
Preparation of fishery products	Prepared or preserved fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs	1604
	Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved	1605

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs “Japan’s Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024”<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

#### 3.3.2. Major Laws and Regulations

##### 1) Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act

##### ① Import Quota (IQ)

Import Quotas are an import control measures that limits the quantity of imports from foreign countries for each item, set within specific items to protect Japanese fishers, and allocate quotas to each importer.<sup>130</sup> For the [import quota items](#)<sup>131</sup> listed in Table 26, it is necessary to apply for an import quota in accordance with the import announcement (announcement of

<sup>130</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, “Import quota of marine products” (in Japanese), [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/03\\_import/04\\_suisan/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/03_import/04_suisan/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>131</sup> Japanese Law Translation, “Public Announcement on the Items of Goods Subject to Import Quotas, the Places of Origin or Places of Shipment of Goods Requiring Approval for Import, and Other Necessary Matters Concerning Import of Goods” <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/notices/view/150>, accessed on 9 August 2024

application procedures, etc.) for each item, which is in principle conducted once a year.<sup>132</sup> For details, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "[Trade Control](#)<sup>133</sup>".

**Table 26: Import Quota Items**

	Quota Item Name	Description
1	Cod	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked or dried cod and cod fish meal
2	Alaska pollack	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked or dried Alaska pollack (excluding alaska pollack roe) and Alaska pollack fish meal
3	Yellowtail, pacific saury, scallops and dried sardines	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked, dried yellowtail, saury, scallops and dried fish, and fishmeal of yellowtail and saury
4	Scallops	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, d brine-soaked, dried scallops
5	Fishery products	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked or dried fishery products (excluding herring, alaska pollack, cod roe, squid and dried cuttlefish) and fish meal of these species (including cod, yellowtail, pacific saury scallops, dried sardines, horse mackerel, mackerel, sardines and scallops originating in South Korea)
6	Kelp	Kelp
7	Dried laver and green laver	Dried laver and green laver
8	Herring	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked and dried herring and herring fish meal
9	Sardines	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked and dried sardines and sardine fish meal
10	Horse mackerel	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked or dried horse mackerel and horse mackerel fish meal
11	Mackerel	Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, brine-soaked or dried mackerel and mackerel fish meal
12	Cod roe	Cod roe (including alaska pollack)
13	Dried cuttlefish	Dried cuttlefish
14	Kelp preparations	Kelp (only boiled and salted kelp), kelp preparations
15	Dried seaweed	Paper seaweed and other types of seaweed, including nori and seaweed mixed with nori
16	Seaweed preparations (excluding unsweetened seasoned seaweed)	Preparation of nori (including toasted nori, excluding unsweetened seasoned nori)
17	Unsweetened seasoned seaweed	Seasoned nori, without added sugar
18	Squid	Squid, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted and salted in brine

Source: Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for all marine products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010913.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## ② Approval No. 2

When importing fishery products from a specified region whose origin or shipping areas are

<sup>132</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import Procedures for Quota Commodities (IQ) Marine Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010539.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>133</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Trade Control" [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/index.html#contact](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/trade_control/index.html#contact), accessed on 9 August 2024



those listed in Table 2 of the Import Notice, import approval from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is required in advance.<sup>134</sup> For information on items subject to Approval No. 2, please refer to "[Public Announcement on the Items of Goods Subject to Import Quotas, the Places of Origin or Places of Shipment of Goods Requiring Approval for Import, and Other Necessary Matters Concerning Import of Goods](#)"<sup>135</sup>.

### ③ Prior confirmation

Some fishery products do not require import approval if they are pre-approved by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, or other relevant authorities.<sup>136</sup>

For tuna, five Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) - the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) manage the world's oceans, and each International Fisheries Management Organization carries out resource management to ensure the sustainable use of tuna resources.<sup>137</sup>

When tuna is exported, **the country that manages the fishing vessels, fish farms and processing plants issues a Statistical document, a Catch certificate and a Re-export certificate**, and the importing country must certify these documents. In accordance with this measure, when importing tuna into Japan, confirmation by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry is required under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act.<sup>138</sup>

Plants, animals and derivatives listed in Appendix II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora are also subject to prior confirmation. For details, please refer to "2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)."

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<sup>134</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Import Restrictions from Specific Regions (No. 2 Approval)" (in Japanese) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/04\\_kamotsu/02\\_import/import\\_2go.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/04_kamotsu/02_import/import_2go.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>135</sup> Japanese Law Translation "Public Announcement on the Items of Goods Subject to Import Quotas, the Places of Origin or Places of Shipment of Goods Requiring Approval for Import, and Other Necessary Matters Concerning Import of Goods" <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/notices/view/150>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>136</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "List by Import Approval System" (in Japanese) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/04\\_kamotsu/02\\_import/import\\_seido.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/04_kamotsu/02_import/import_seido.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>137</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Import control of tuna (prior confirmation and confirmation at the time of customs clearance)" (in Japanese) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/03\\_import/05\\_maguro/import\\_maguro.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/03_import/05_maguro/import_maguro.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>138</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Import control of tuna (prior confirmation and confirmation at the time of customs clearance)" (in Japanese) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/03\\_import/05\\_maguro/import\\_maguro.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/03_import/05_maguro/import_maguro.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

## 2) Act on the Protection of Marine Resources

In order to prevent the spread of diseases in aquatic animals (diseases subject to import quarantine), when importing aquatic animals that may be infected with such diseases into Japan, an import permit issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is required under the Act on the Protection of Marine Resources. The main target is fishery products for ornamental and aquaculture purposes. However, live fishery products for human consumption (especially abalone, oysters, and prawn) that are stored in public water areas or facilities that drain directly into the areas for a certain period of time after import are also subject to import permit requirements (However, if the water used in the storage facility is discharged into the sewerage system or discharged after sufficient disinfection, etc., it is exempt from the import permit application).<sup>139</sup> For details, please contact the [Animal quarantine service](#)<sup>140</sup>.

## 3) Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants

Fishery products are managed and regulated by the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, which aims to prevent the contamination of illegally caught aquatic animals and plants in the distribution process and the influx of aquatic animals and plants from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.<sup>141</sup>

Aquatic animals and plants that require import restrictions due to reasons such as a high risk of illegal capture by foreign fishing vessels are referred to as "Class II specified aquatic animals and plants".<sup>142</sup> For details, please refer to the Fisheries Agency's website "[Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants](#)"<sup>143</sup>. The subjects and obligations of this Act are shown in Table 27.

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<sup>139</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for all marine products: Japan", <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010913.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>140</sup> Animal Quarantine Services, "Animal quarantine information for travellers to Japan", <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/languages/info.html#EN>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>141</sup> Japan Fisheries Agency, "Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants", <https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/220614.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>142</sup> Japan Fisheries Agency, "Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants", <https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/220614.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>143</sup> Japan Fisheries Agency, "Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants", <https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/220614.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

**Table 27: Subject and Obligations of the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants**

	Species of Fish	Obligations
class I specified aquatic animals and plants	Abalone, sea cucumber (including processed products) *The regulations for glass eels will come into effect in December 2025.	The following obligations are imposed on those who catch, import, process, wholesale, etc. ① Notification to the management authority (electronic application through eMAFF ( <a href="#">Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries common application service</a> ) <sup>144</sup> ) ② Notification of catch number or lot number at the time of transaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the case of importation or aquaculture, notification to that effect.</li> <li>Exporters must attach a legal catch certificate at the time of export.</li> </ul> ③ Prepare and retain transaction records (for 3 years)
class II specified aquatic animals and plants	Squid, pacific saury, mackerel, sardines (including processed products)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When importing, attach a legal catch certificate issued by the foreign (flag state) government agency, etc.</li> <li>If the product is processed in a third country other than the flag state and then imported, also attach a processing declaration form issued by the third country (processing location) government agency, etc. when importing.</li> </ul>

Source: Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2023) "Guide to Food Import 2023" [https://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English\\_Document?hti0re0000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English_Document?hti0re0000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

#### 4) Food Sanitation Act

- Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In addition, **a health certificate issued by the government of the exporting country is required to import pufferfish.**<sup>145</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>146</sup>

- Standards for Foods

In accordance with Article 11 of the Food Sanitation Act, general standards for ingredients, manufacturing, processing and storage have been established. In addition, the following foods have their own standards for ingredients, production, processing and storage. Standards have

<sup>144</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries "eMAFF" <https://e.maff.go.jp/GuestPortal> (in Japanese), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>145</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for all marine products: Japan", <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010913.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>146</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for all marine products: Japan", <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010913.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

also been established for the residual levels of food additives and fishery pharmaceuticals.<sup>147</sup> For food additives that do not appear in [the list of limit amounts](#)<sup>148</sup> and drugs that do not appear in the [list of the drugs permitted for the preventative use in aquatic animals](#)<sup>149</sup>, their inclusion is not permitted at all.

- Whale meat (excluding frozen whale meat for raw consumption)
- Whale meat products
- Fish meat paste products
- Salmon roe and cod roe
- Boiled octopus
- Boiled crab
- Fresh seafood for raw consumption
- Oysters for raw consumption
- Frozen foods

#### 5) Food Labelling Act

When selling food products, it is necessary to pay attention to the labeling of food products, including the display of quality information such as ingredient names, country of origin, as well as hygiene related information such as additives, allergens, production facilities, etc., and the labeling of genetically modified organisms, etc.<sup>150</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.6 Food Labeling Act".

#### 6) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- Those who will import animals and plants regulated by CITES must obtain a "CITES Export Permit" issued by the exporting country and, depending on the species, a "Certificate of import approval" or "Certificate of prior confirmation" issued by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.<sup>151</sup> For detail, please refer to "2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)." Past import suspensions have included items such as caviar.<sup>152</sup>
- On the other hand, signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) may place reservations on species listed in the Convention's Appendix, and species with reservations are not subject to restrictions.

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<sup>147</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for all marine products: Japan", <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010913.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>148</sup> Japan Food and Chemical Research Foundation "Search engine for MRLs", <https://db.ffcr.or.jp/front/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>149</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (in Jan-31, 2022), "List of the drugs permitted for the preventative use in aquatic animals", [https://www.maff.go.jp/syouan/suisan/suisan\\_yobo/attach/pdf/fishmed-56.pdf](https://www.maff.go.jp/syouan/suisan/suisan_yobo/attach/pdf/fishmed-56.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>150</sup> Consumer Affairs Agency, "Food Labelling", [https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food\\_labeling](https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food_labeling), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>151</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)" [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>152</sup> Japan Customs "Washington Convention" (in Japanese), <https://www.customs.go.jp/mizuguiwa/washington/washington.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

As of July 2024, the species listed in Table 28 are reserved species in Japan's fisheries. In addition, importing **cetaceans listed in Appendix I that are subject to a reservation must be confirmed**<sup>153</sup> in advance or at the time of customs clearance.<sup>154</sup>

**Table 28: Reserved Species (Fishery products) under the CITES in Japan**

	Reserved Species
Appendix I	Minke whale, southern minke whale, sei whale (excluding the North Pacific population and the population in the area between 0 degrees east longitude and 70 degrees east longitude, and the area between the equator and Antarctica), Bryde's whale, Omura's whale, fin whale, irrawaddy dolphin, Australian snubfin dolphin, sperm whale, and Baird's beaked whale.
Appendix II	Silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, blue shark (listed in Annex II on November 25, 2023), scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, all species of the thresher shark, basking shark, great white shark, mako shark, longfin mako, porbeagle shark, whale shark, all species of seahorses, holothuria fuscogilva (a species of black sea cucumber)

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "CITES (Full Text, Annexes, Parties, etc.)" (in Japanese) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/02\\_exandim/06\\_washington/cites\\_about.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/trade_control/02_exandim/06_washington/cites_about.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

**Column 3: "Initiatives for Sustainable Fisheries."**

WEST PACIFIC SCALLOPS (SAS WPS), founded in 2015, was born from the desire of the inhabitants of the Belep Islands and the Northern Province, as well as private investors, to develop a sustainable scallop fishery in the Great Northern Lagoon of New Caledonia. SAEML NORD AVENIR, a semi-public company that implements development projects for the local government of the Northern Province, has established a joint venture with FAR WEST SCALLOPS INDUSTRIES Pty Ltd, an Australian company which has expertise in scallop fishing, processing and marketing, to implement this project. All the inhabitants of the Belep Islands participated in this project. In fact, the 16 clans of the 16 communes that make up the GDPL are grouped together in SC BELEMA, which is a shareholder in SAS WPS. SAS WPS catches the moon scallops, a high-quality product that is very popular internationally and known as the best scallop in the world.

This joint venture is a good example in many aspects, not only in terms of economic, social and environmental factors, but also in terms of legal and financial regulations related to the local culture and the specificity of New Caledonia.

Source: New Caledonia Trade & Invest, "Success Stories", <https://www.ncti.nc/en/invest-in-new-caledonia/testimonials-success-stories#year-2018>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>153</sup> This refers to obtaining prior confirmation from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, etc. For details, please refer to "③ Prior confirmation" in "1) Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" in "3.3.2 Major Laws and Regulations."

<sup>154</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)" [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3.4. Import/Export Procedures for Chocolate

### 3.4.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 29: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) for Chocolate**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Cocoa Beans	Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	1801
Cocoa Bean Hulls, Skins and Other Waste	Cocoa shells, husks, skins and other cocoa waste	1802
Cocoa Paste	Cocoa paste, whether or not defatted	1803
Cocoa Butter	Cocoa butter, fat and oil	1804
Cocoa Powder	Cocoa powder, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	1805
Chocolate and other processed foods containing cocoa	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	1806
White Chocolate	Chocolate that do not contain cocoa	1704.90.230

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs, "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.4.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Food Sanitation Act

- Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>155</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act". In particular, many cases of aflatoxin detection have been reported in peanuts and nuts such as pistachios, almonds and walnuts.

<sup>156</sup>

#### 2) Plant Protection Act

Cocoa beans are subject to plant quarantine under the Plant Protection Act.<sup>157</sup> For details on

<sup>155</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>156</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>157</sup> From the results of interviews with business operators importing goods from Pacific Island Countries to Japan

the Plant Protection Act, please refer to "2.2.1 Plant Protection Act".

### 3) Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch

Price adjustments are in place for sugar and starch; with the entry into force of the TPP Agreement (December 30, 2018), imported added sugar preparations (cocoa and coffee preparations, etc. with a sugar content of 50% or more) have been newly added as subject to adjustment fee collection. To determine whether the imported products are subject to trade, please prepare materials such as manufacturing methods, ingredient ratios, properties, uses, samples, etc., and contact the customs office where you plan to submit the import declaration.<sup>158</sup>

If you wish to receive response materials that can be submitted as the evidence of tariff classification at the time of examination conducted in the import declaration, you can also obtain "[Advance ruling on tariff classification](#)<sup>159</sup>".

For details on the Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch, please refer to "2.2.5 Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch".

#### Column 4: "Points to note about plant quarantine at the Plant Protection Act" at the Plant protection station"

Since cacao beans fall under the import inspection category, inspections are conducted in Japan. If mold or pests are found during the inspection, the beans will be ordered to be disinfected, destroyed, or returned to the exporting country. If disinfection is ordered, the goods can be imported after disinfection (fumigation process). Since the fumigation process involves the use of chemicals, care must be taken with products marketed as "organic" or "organically grown." The cost of fumigation is approximately 100,000 yen and is borne by the importer.

Source: Interviews with business operators

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<sup>158</sup> Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2023), "Guide to Food Import 2023" [https://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English\\_Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/english/English_Document/hti0re000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>159</sup> Japan Customs "1. Advance Ruling on Classification", <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024



## 3.5. Import/Export Procedures for Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts and Other Preparations of Plant Parts

### 3.5.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 30: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts, and Other Preparations of Plant Parts**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid	Pickles, Taro flour, etc.	2001
Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.	Tomato puree, Tomato paste, Ketchup, etc.	2002
Mushrooms and truffles, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid	Mushrooms, Truffles, etc.	2003
Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen, other than products of heading 20.06	Frozen Vegetables, etc.	2004
Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, other than products of heading 20.06	Mashed Potatoes, Olives, Corn, etc.	2005
Vegetables, fruit, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar (drained, glacé or crystallized).	Peaches, Apricots, etc.	2006
Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes, obtained by cooking, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	Jams, Fruit Jellies, etc.	2007
Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included	Peanut Butter, Roasted Nuts, Breadfruit Flour, etc.	2008
Fruit or nut juices (including grape must and coconut water) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	Orange Juice, Vegetable Juice, Coconut Water, etc.	2009

Source: Japan Customs, "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024"

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.5.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Food Sanitation Act

##### ● Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>160</sup>

##### ● Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

<sup>160</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024



It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits.

<sup>161</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

Examples of past violations include<sup>162</sup>:

- Nuts such as peanuts, pistachios, almonds, walnuts (aflatoxin detected)
- Mangoes from India (chlorpyrifos detected)
- Blackcurrants from France (flusilazole detected)

## 2) Plant Protection Act

Raw nuts and nuts in shell are subject to quarantine under the Plant Protection Act.<sup>163</sup> For details of the Plant Protection Act, including prohibited imports and items subject to plant quarantine, please refer to "2.2.1 Plant Protection Act". The following items are not subject to quarantine.<sup>164</sup><sup>165</sup>

- Apricots, figs, persimmons, kiwis, plums, pears, jujubes, dates, pineapples, bananas, papayas, grapes, mangoes, peaches, dried longans
- Plants pickled in sulfurous acid, alcohol, acetic acid, sugar, salt, etc., and coconut endocarp granules, etc.

## 3) Food Labelling Act

When selling food products, it is necessary to pay attention to the labeling of food products, including the display of quality information such as ingredient names, country of origin, as well as hygiene related information such as additives, allergens, production facilities, etc., and the labeling of genetically modified organisms, etc. For details, please refer to "2.2.6 Food Labeling Act."

- The Food Labeling Act defines seven foods that are known to cause food allergy symptoms, especially those with a high number of cases and severity of symptoms, as "specified ingredients" and requires their labeling. Peanuts are included among the specified ingredients. In addition, there are 20 items recommended for labelling as "items equivalent to specified ingredients," among which cashew nuts, walnuts and sesame are included.<sup>166</sup> Packaged fruits, including oranges, kiwifruits, peaches, apples, and bananas, are also designated as recommended items for allergy labeling.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>162</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>163</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>164</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010775.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>165</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>166</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>167</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010775.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

#### 4) Organic JAS

In order to label "organic" products, it is necessary to undergo inspection and certification by accredited certification bodies based on the Organic JAS, among other procedures. When organic food products from overseas are sold in Japan, the Organic JAS Mark cannot be affixed and "organic" cannot be labeled unless the products are certified in Japan under the Organic JAS in the same manner as organic food products from Japan.<sup>168</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.7 Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards" and "[Japanese Agricultural Standards \(JAS\)](#)"<sup>169</sup> of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

#### 5) Customs Tariff Act / Temporary Customs Tariff Measures Act (Tariff Quotas)

Under the tariff quota system, no duty or a low duty rate (primary duty rate) is applied only within a certain import quantity quota to ensure the supply of inexpensive imports to consumers, while a high duty rate (secondary duty rate) is applied to imports exceeding this certain import quantity quota to protect domestic producers.

In order to qualify for the primary duty rate through tariff quotas, you must apply for a tariff quota prior to import and present the obtained "Tariff Quota Certificate" at the time of import declaration.<sup>170</sup> Please note that there are different [eligibility requirements for quota applications](#)<sup>171</sup> depending on the product and origin.

The major tariff quota items under "processed vegetables, fruits, nuts and other parts of plants" are as follows.<sup>172</sup>

- Groundnuts for general consumption and seeds
- Canned pineapples
- Fresh bananas, oranges and grapefruits (seasonal tariff items with different rates depending on the timing of import)

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<sup>168</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Organic Food Labeling System: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-080304.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>169</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)" <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/jas/index.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>170</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Nut: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010665.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>171</sup> Reference: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Announcement of tariff quotas for FY2024 (EPA)" (in Japanese) [https://www.maff.go.jp/j/kokusai/boueki/EPA\\_TQ/EPA\\_TQ\\_kohyo/eap2024/EPA\\_kohyo2024.html#%E6%B3%A8%E6%84%8F%E4%BA%8B%E9%A0%85](https://www.maff.go.jp/j/kokusai/boueki/EPA_TQ/EPA_TQ_kohyo/eap2024/EPA_kohyo2024.html#%E6%B3%A8%E6%84%8F%E4%BA%8B%E9%A0%85), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>172</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "(General) Tariff Quota" (in Japanese), <https://www.maff.go.jp/j/kokusai/boueki/triff.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3.6. Import/Export Procedures for Dried Fruits

### 3.6.1. Tariff Classification

HS codes differ depending on the type of fruits. Examples of HS classifications for dried fruits are as follows.

**Table 31: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Dried Fruits**

Name of products	HS Code*
Bananas	0803.90.200
Figs	0804.20.090
Pineapples	0804.30.090
Avocados	0804.40.090
Guavas, mangoes, mangosteens	0804.50.090
Citrus fruits	0805
Grapes	0806.20
Apricots	0813.10
Plums	0813.20
Crab apples	0813.30
Berries	0813.40.010
Papayas, durians	0813.40.021
Dried persimmons	0813.40.022
Mixed	0813.50.010
Others	0813.50.090

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Dried Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010789.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.6.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Plant Protection Act

Imported plants must be reported to the plant protect station and inspected by a plant protection officer. **A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the government agency of the exporting country is required.** If the inspection at the plant protection station reveals that the plant is infested with pests or diseases, measures such as disinfection, extermination or disposal may be ordered. In addition, plants with soil attached cannot be imported.

The following dried fruits are not subject to import plant quarantine because they are not considered to be at risk of carrying plant pests or diseases that are subject to plant quarantine.

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- Apricots, figs, persimmons, kiwis, plums, pears, jujubes, dates, pineapples, bananas, papayas, grapes, mangoes, peaches, longans.

#### 2) Food Sanitation Act

- Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents

<sup>173</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Dried Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010789.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.<sup>174</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>175</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act" In the past, there have been cases where aflatoxin was found in dried figs from the United States and Turkey, and excessive sulfur dioxide residue was found in dried mangoes from the Philippines.<sup>176</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Dried Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010789.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>175</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Dried Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010789.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>176</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Dried Fruits: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010789.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3.7. Import/Export Procedures for Spices

### 3.7.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 32: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) for Spices**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Pepper of the genus Piper; dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta	Pepper, chili pepper	0904
Vanilla	Vanilla bean	0905
Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers	Cinnamon	0906
Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)	Cloves	0907
Nutmeg, mace and cardamoms	Nutmeg, etc.	0908
Seeds of anise, badian, fennel, coriander, cumin or caraway; juniper berries	Anise, coriander, cumin, etc.	0909
Ginger, saffron, turmeric (curcuma), thyme, bay leaves, curry and other spices	Ginger, saffron, curry powder, etc.	0910

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024", <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.7.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Plant Protection Act

Since most spices are made by fruits, seeds, or underground stems of plants, or dried versions of these, plant quarantine inspections are required to prevent pests and diseases from entering Japan on imported plants. If the shipment is subject to plant quarantine, the importer must submit a "Phytosanitary Certificate" issued by the government agency of the exporting country.<sup>177</sup>

However, dried spices that are sealed in retail containers (such as ground red pepper and Japanese pepper) are exempt from a supervision of the Plant Protection Act.<sup>178</sup> For more information, please contact the relevant plant protection station.

#### 2) Food Sanitation Act

##### ● Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.<sup>179</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there is no specific problem with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and

<sup>177</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for spices: Japan" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>178</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for spices: Japan" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>179</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for spices: Japan" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to Customs.<sup>180</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act."

The following violations have been confirmed in the past.<sup>181</sup>

- Detection of aflatoxin and mycotoxin/mold toxin (chili powder, chili pepper, nutmeg, turmeric)
- Use of ethylene oxide (non-designated additive sterilizer) in cinnamon
- Excessive residual sulfur dioxide (bleach) in dried herbs
- Detection of profenofos (cumin)
- Detection of EPN (lemongrass), etc.

### 3) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- Those who import animals and plants regulated by CITES must obtain a "CITES Export Permit" issued by the exporting country and, depending on the species, a "Certificate of import approval" or "Certificate of prior confirmation" issued by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.<sup>182</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)."
- In the past, Customs stopped the import of items such as woody sage, aloe, vanilla, and agave.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for spices: Japan"  
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>181</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for spices: Japan"  
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010834.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>182</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Imports of goods related to the CITES",  
[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/cites\\_imports.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/cites_imports.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>183</sup> Japan Customs, "Washington Convention" (in Japanese),  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/mizugiwa/washington/washington.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3.8. Import/Export Procedures for Meat and Meat Products

### 3.8.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 33: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) for Meat and Meat Products**

Name of products	HS Code*
Beef (fresh, chilled)	0201
Beef (frozen)	0202
Pork (fresh, chilled, frozen)	0203
Sheep or goat meat (fresh, chilled, frozen)	0204
Horse meat (fresh, chilled, frozen)	0205
Edible offal (of the above animals, fresh, chilled, frozen)	0206
Meat and edible offal (of poultry, fresh, chilled or frozen)	0207
Meat and edible offal (other animals, fresh, chilled or frozen)	0208
Poultry and pig fat, excluding subcutaneous fat	0209
Meat and offal (salted, in brine, dried or smoked), ground	0210
Sausages	1601
Prepared meat products	1602
Pasta stuffed with meat	1902.20
Prepared foods	2106

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.8.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Temporary Customs Tariff Measures Act / Customs Tariff Act (Article 12-2) /Act Concerning the Stabilization of Price of Livestock Products

Among tariff classification numbers HS0203, HS0206, HS0210, and HS1602, the gate price system is applied to pork. Under the gate price system, when the price of imported goods is low, the portion below the gate price is collected as a tariff to protect domestic pig farmers, while when the price is high, the tariff burden is reduced by applying a lower rate of ad valorem duty for the benefit of consumers. Please contact Customs for specific tariff rates.<sup>184</sup>

#### 2) Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock

Since meat is classified as a "designated quarantine item" under the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock, when importing it, it is necessary to submit an "Application for Import Quarantine (livestock products)" to the Animal Quarantine Service, which is responsible for the port used for the import, by the specified date. It needs to be submitted with the necessary documents, such as a "certificate of quarantine inspection" issued by the quarantine agency of the exporting country. If the inspection is passed, a "certificate of import quarantine" is issued. Import-prohibited areas for meat, such as cattle, pigs, sheep, and other livestock, have been established to prevent the introduction of malignant livestock infectious diseases (cattle plague, foot-and-mouth disease, swine cholera, African swine cholera, and upland disease avian influenza, etc.). In addition, imports of meat products, etc. of bovine,

<sup>184</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024



sheep, and goat originated from BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) outbreak countries and of deer originated from CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) outbreak countries has been suspended. However, as the outbreak of BSE has been controlled by regulations, imports from some countries have now resumed under certain conditions.<sup>185</sup>

### 3) Food Sanitation Act

- Required Documents and Procedures

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.<sup>186</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act".

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there is no specific problem with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>187</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits.<sup>188</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act."

The following are examples of past violations.<sup>189</sup>

- Lumequine (Brazilian beef)
- Clenbuterol (Chinese pork)
- Flartadone (Chinese poultry)

### 4) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- Those who will import animals and plants regulated by CITES must obtain a "CITES Export Permit" issued by the exporting country and, depending on the species, a "Certificate of import approval" or "Certificate of prior confirmation" issued by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.<sup>190</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)."

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<sup>185</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>186</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>187</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>188</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Food Sanitation Act; Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030003.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>189</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>190</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Imports of goods related to the CITES", [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/cites\\_imports.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/cites_imports.html), accessed on 9 August 2024



- Examples of import prohibition cases by customs in the past include alligator jerky and bear meat.<sup>191</sup>

#### 5) Food Labelling Act

When selling food products, it is necessary to pay attention to the labeling of food products, including the display of quality information such as ingredient names, country of origin, as well as hygiene related information such as additives, allergens, production facilities, etc., and the labeling of genetically modified organisms, etc.<sup>192</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.6 Food Labeling Act".

#### 6) Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)

Products that have been approved as meeting JAS are eligible to be labeled with the JAS mark. The following JAS are applicable to meat and meat products.<sup>193</sup>

- General JAS  
Canned and bottled livestock products, meat products (bacon, ham, pressed ham, sausage, hamburger patty, chilled hamburger steak, chilled meatballs)
- Specific JAS  
Cured bacon, cured ham, cured sausage, free-range chicken
- Organic JAS  
Organic livestock products, processed organic livestock product
- JAS for the Publication of Production Information  
Beef, Pork

#### 7) The Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations / Fair Competition Code

The following voluntary labeling rules have been established for meat products under the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations.<sup>194</sup> For details, please refer to "[The Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations](#)<sup>195</sup>".

- "Fair Competition Code for the Labeling of Meat Products" of the National Meat Fair Trade Council
- "[Fair Competition Code for the Labeling of Ham and Sausage Products](#)<sup>196</sup>" of the Ham and Sausage Fair Trade Council

<sup>191</sup> Japan Customs, "Washington convention"(in Japanese) <https://www.customs.go.jp/mizugiwa/washington/washington.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>192</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>193</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>194</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Meat and Meat Products: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010887.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>195</sup> Japanese Law Translation "Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations", <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/2888>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>196</sup> Ham and Sausages Fair Trade Council "Fair Competition Code" (in Japanese), <https://www.niku-kakou.or.jp/kosei/kiyaku.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 3.9. Import/Export Procedures for Beverage

### 3.9.1. Tariff Classification

**Table 34: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Major Beverages**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Waters, including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated waters, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter nor flavored; ice and snow	Mineral water, sparkling water, etc.	2201
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavored, and other non-alcoholic beverages, not including fruit, nut or vegetable juices of heading 20.09	Non-alcoholic beer, etc.	2202
Beer made from malt	Beer	2203
Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must other than that of heading 20.09)	Wine, etc.	2204
Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes flavored with plants or aromatic substances	Vermouth, etc.	2205
Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead, saké); mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included	Cider, sake, noni juice, etc.	2206
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages	Whiskey, rum, gin, vodka, etc.	2208

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs “Japan’s Tariff Schedule as of April 1 2024”, <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.9.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Liquor Tax Law

If traders import and sell alcoholic beverages, it is necessary to obtain a liquor license from the head of the tax office responsible for the location of each sales outlet. If traders operate a bar, restaurant, or other business where alcoholic beverages are served for drinking at self-owned establishments, a liquor license is not required to obtain. The classification of licenses varies depending on the range of alcoholic beverages sold and the method of sale. For information on the license application process for importers, please contact the Chief Examiner (Liquor Tax and Industry) at the nearest Tax office.<sup>197</sup>

#### 2) Food Sanitation Act

##### ● Required Documents and Procedures

<sup>197</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, “Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

Importers must submit a "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." and documents such as "Description of ingredients, components or manufacturing process, etc." to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act."

If it is decided that an inspection is necessary as a result of the evaluation, an inspection will be conducted by the quarantine station. If there are no problems with the evaluation or inspection, a stamped "Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc." will be issued, and this notification will be submitted with the customs documents when the import is declared to the customs.<sup>198</sup>

- Food Additives and Maximum Residue Limits

It is necessary to be aware of inclusion of food additives that are prohibited in Japan and substances (such as antibiotics) that have usage standards, and Maximum Residue Limits.<sup>199</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act."

The following violations have been confirmed in the past.<sup>200</sup>

- Brandy: excessive levels of methanol detected
- Liqueurs: excessive levels of methanol detected, use of sorbic acid (preservative) not covered by the regulations, residue of L-malic acid (non-designated acidulant), residue of azorubine, quinoline yellow and patent blue V, which are non-designated coloring agent
- Wine: Excessive use of sorbic acid, excessive residual sulfur dioxide (antioxidant)
- Wine cooler: use of benzoic acid (preservative) not covered by the law
- Sangria: residue of non-designated sweeteners such as acesulfame potassium and sodium cyclamate, use of undeclared saccharin sodium not covered by law, etc.

### 3) Act on Securing of Liquor Tax and on Liquor Business Associations

By the time the alcoholic beverage importer (alcoholic beverage distributor) picks up the alcoholic beverage from the bonded area, the name and address of the importer, the address of the pick-up location, the container capacity, the alcoholic beverage category and the items specified by law for each alcoholic beverage category must be marked in an easily identifiable manner on the container of the alcoholic beverage to be imported in a visible location.<sup>201</sup>

In addition, the importer must submit a copy of the license (or notification) to sell alcoholic beverages along with a "labeling method notification form" containing the following information to the Customs office at the port of entry for verification. The contents of the labeling method notification form (common labeling items) are as follows.<sup>202</sup>

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<sup>198</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Food Sanitation Act: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030003.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>199</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Food Sanitation Act: Japan" (in Japanese), <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-030003.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>200</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>201</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>202</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

- a. Name or title of the importer
- b. Address of the importer
- c. Address of pick-up location (location of point of sale as shown on liquor license)
- d. Capacity of the container (ℓ, ml, liter, milliliter, etc.)
- e. Type of liquor (name of product, beer, fruit wine, etc.)
- f. Alcohol content (degrees or percent, %)
- g. Carbonation ("carbonated," "contains carbon dioxide," etc.)
- h. Food additives (names of antioxidants, synthetic preservatives, etc.)
- i. Warnings to prevent underage drinking (underage drinking is prohibited by law, etc.)
- j. Container identification (labels are required for containers made of steel, aluminum, PET, paper, or plastic)
- k. Organic Label (for organically processed alcoholic beverages)  
(Items to be added depending on the type of alcoholic beverage)
  - l. Ingredients
  - m. Country of origin
  - n. Expiration date or quality assurance date
  - o. Method of storage

#### 4) Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations / Fair Competition Code

Excessive sales with premiums and exaggerated or false representations that may mislead consumers are prohibited. In addition, the following industry groups have established fair competition codes for alcoholic beverages.<sup>203</sup>

- Japan Wineries Association (premiums)
- Brewers Association of Japan (premiums, representations)
- Japan Wines and Spirits Importers' Association (premiums, representations)
- Japan Spirits & Liqueurs Makers Association (premiums, representations)
- Japan Sake & Shochu Makers Association (premiums, representations)
- Japan Distillers Association (premiums)
- All Japan Liquor Merchants Association (premiums)
- Japan Liquor Wholesalers Association (representations)

#### 5) Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources / The Containers and Packaging Recycling Law

Plastic containers, paper containers, PET bottles, steel cans for alcoholic beverages, aluminum cans for alcoholic beverages, etc. are required to have material identification labels to promote sorted collection. In addition, specified businesses (including importers) are required to recycle and re-commercialize the container waste.<sup>204</sup>

<sup>203</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>204</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

#### Column 5: The Alcohol Content of Noni Juice

Noni juice is a fermented beverage and contains a small amount of alcohol. It should be noted that each importation of noni juice is inspected in Japan and if the alcohol content is 1% or more, it is considered alcoholic beverages under the Liquor Tax Law. According to a company that imports noni juice from Tonga to Japan, because of the possibility of errors in inspection and the possibility of fermentation progressing in transit, they conduct their own inspections in Tonga each time they ship the product and make sure that the alcohol content is less than 0.8%.

In addition, the tariff rate also varies depending on the alcohol content. If the alcohol content is 0.5% or less, it is considered a non-alcoholic beverage for tariff classification purposes, and therefore has a low tariff rate.

Most noni juice has an alcohol content between 0.5% and 1.0% and is subject to a tariff of around 30%<sup>205</sup>.

Please check with your local customs office before shipping.

Source: Interview with business operators

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<sup>205</sup> Tariff rates as of July 2024. Tariff rates vary depending on the exporting country, degree of processing, etc., so please check with your own customs office.

## 3.10. Import/Export procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories

### 3.10.1. Tariff Classification

Natural or cultured pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals and metals overlaid with precious metals and products thereof, and articles of jewelry are classified in Class 71 in the tariff classification.<sup>206</sup> In addition, precious metals and their alloys for jewelry stand for four elements, which are gold, silver, platinum (platinum), and palladium, and their alloys.<sup>207</sup>

**Table 35: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of the Main Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Pearl	Pearls, natural or cultured, whether or not worked or graded but not strung, mounted or set; pearls, natural or cultured, temporarily strung for convenience of transport	7101
Diamond	Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set	7102
Precious and semi-precious stones	Precious stones (other than diamonds) and semi-precious stones, whether or not worked or graded but not strung, mounted or set; ungraded precious stones (other than diamonds) and semi-precious stones, temporarily strung for convenience of transport	7103 *Synthetic or reconstructed precious or semi-precious stones: 7104
Silver	Silver (including silver plated with gold or platinum), unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form	7106 *Base metals clad with silver: 7107
Gold	Gold (including gold plated with platinum) unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form	7108 *Base metals or silver, clad with gold: 7109
Platinum (Pt)	Platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form	7110 *Base metals, silver or gold, clad with platinum: 7111
Articles of jewelry	Articles of jewelry and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal	7113

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan” (in Japanese)

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Customs “Japan’s Tariff Schedule as of January 1 2024” <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.10.2. Major Laws and Regulations

- 1) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

<sup>206</sup> Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>207</sup> Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

## (CITES)

CITES does not have any specific regulations regarding the importation of jewelry, precious metals, and accessories. However, products made of coral, ivory, tortoiseshell, and other endangered animals and plants are subject to CITES restrictions and should be imported with caution.<sup>208</sup> When importing animals and plants regulated by CITES, it is necessary to obtain a "CITES Export Permit", etc. issued by the exporting country. Depending on the species concerned, the importer must obtain a "Certificate of import approval" or "Certificate of prior confirmation" issued by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.<sup>209</sup> For details, please refer to 2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

### 2) Grading and Standards for Precious Metal Products

The hallmark is an engraving that certifies the material and purity of a product made of precious metals. A mint or other reputable institution in each country inspects the precious metal and stamps letters and numbers on the back and sides of the product.<sup>210</sup> There are no internationally harmonized standards for hallmarking, and the standards and content of hallmarking vary from country to country.<sup>211</sup> In some countries, hallmarking is required by law,<sup>212</sup> but in Japan, hallmarking is voluntary.<sup>213</sup> The mint in Japan, as an official third party, stamps certification hallmarks on precious metals that have passed a quality test at the request of businesses.<sup>214</sup>

In Japan, the JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards) defines the purity and grade of precious metal alloys for jewelry (JIS H6309).<sup>215</sup> In addition, the Japan Jewelry Association has established industry guidelines regarding grade labeling regulations for precious metals.<sup>216</sup>

### 3) Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations (Unjustifiable

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<sup>208</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>209</sup> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Imports of goods related to the CITES" [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/CITES/cites\\_imports.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/cites_imports.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>210</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Mint "Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>211</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>212</sup> Legislation.gov.uk, "Hallmarking Act 1973" <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1973/43>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>213</sup> Japan Mint "Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>214</sup> Japan Mint "Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>215</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Mint "Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>216</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Mint "Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products" (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

Premiums Law)

Sales with misleading or other improper labeling or excessive premiums are prohibited.<sup>217</sup> Misleading indications of origin are also considered misrepresentations,<sup>218</sup> so care must be taken.

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<sup>217</sup> Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Mint “Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products” (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>218</sup> Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Jewelry, Precious Metals and Accessories: Japan” (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010800.html>; Japan Mint “Proof of Grade of Precious Metal Products” (in Japanese) [https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations\\_certification-01.html](https://www.mint.go.jp/operations/exam/operations_certification-01.html), accessed on 6 September 2024



## 3.11. Import/Export Procedures for Cosmetics

### 3.11.1. Tariff Classification

Since the tariff classification of cosmetics varies widely, it is recommended that detailed information on the product be presented through the importer and referred to the Customs Counselor's Office in advance.<sup>219</sup> (Utilize the [advance teaching system](#)<sup>220</sup> ).

**Table 36: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Major Cosmetics**

Name of products	Description	HS Code*
Essential oil	Essential oils (terpeneless or not), including concretes and absolutes; resinoids; extracted oleoresins; concentrates of essential oils in fats, in fixed oils, in waxes or the like, obtained by enfleurage or maceration; terpenic by-products of the deterpenation of essential oils; aqueous distillates and aqueous solutions of essential oils.	3301
Perfume	Perfumes and eau de cologne	3303
Beauty and makeup cosmetics and sunscreens	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin (other than medicaments), including sunscreen or sun tan preparations; manicure or pedicure preparations.	3304
Hair care products	Preparations for use on the hair (shampoo, etc.)	3305
Preparations for shaving	Pre-shave, shaving or after-shave preparations, personal deodorants, bath preparations, depilatories and other perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations, not elsewhere specified or included; prepared room deodorizers, whether or not perfumed or having disinfectant properties.	3307
Soap	Soap; organic surface-active products and preparations for use as soap, in the form of bars, cakes, molded pieces or shapes, whether or not containing soap; organic surface-active products and preparations for washing the skin, in the form of liquid or cream and put up for retail sale, whether or not containing soap; paper, wadding, felt and nonwovens, impregnated, coated or covered with soap or detergent.	3401

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>; Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of January 1 2024" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.11.2. Major Laws and Regulations

- 1) Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act (Act on Quality, Efficacy and Safety Assurance, etc. of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices)

Since cosmetics are subject to the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act, legal considerations must be taken into account when importing cosmetics.<sup>221</sup> However, the Act does not apply to the importation of cosmetics for personal use in standard sizes, not exceeding 24 pieces per item.<sup>222</sup>

<sup>219</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>220</sup> Japan Customs, "1. Advance Ruling on Classification" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>221</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>222</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

Please refer to the following excerpts regarding cosmetics under this law.

- Cosmetics Marketing License and Cosmetics Manufacturing License

In order to import and sell foreign cosmetics into Japan, it is necessary to obtain a cosmetics manufacturing and sales license (Article 12 of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act).<sup>223</sup> To obtain this license, apply to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Section of the prefectural government where the sales office is located.<sup>224</sup>

- Certification of Foreign Manufacturers and Distributors of Cosmetics

In order to import and sell cosmetics manufactured or sold in a foreign country into Japan, the importer must submit information on the manufacturer or seller of the cosmetics of the foreign country to the Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare via the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA).<sup>225</sup> To obtain accreditation, the Japanese manufacturer or distributor must apply prior to importation.<sup>226</sup> The accreditation is a requirement for the "marketing authorization for each product" described in the next section.<sup>227</sup>

However, if the product complies with the cosmetics standard<sup>228</sup> and all ingredients are labeled on the container, etc., the aforementioned accreditation may not be required.<sup>229</sup> In this case, foreign manufacturers of cosmetics are exempted from the requirement and information on foreign manufacturers of cosmetics is to be submitted to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.<sup>230</sup>

- Marketing authorization by item

Cosmetics containing ingredients designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare must be approved by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare before they are sold in Japan (Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act).<sup>231</sup> However, if the cosmetics conform to the cosmetics standards and all ingredients are labeled on the container, etc., and the notification to that effect has been submitted to the prefectural governor, the

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<sup>223</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024; Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2024), "Manual for Import and Sale of Cosmetics and Quasi-pharmaceutical products 2024" (in Japanese) [https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/pdf\\_publications\\_00632023.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/pdf_publications_00632023.pdf), accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>224</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>225</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>226</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>227</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>228</sup> The Cosmetics Standard (Notification No. 331 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, September 29, 2000) stipulates prohibitions and restrictions on the use of preservatives, UV absorbers, tar dyes, and other ingredients.

<sup>229</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>230</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>231</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

approval is not required.<sup>232</sup>

If all the ingredients are not labeled, the application should be submitted through the prefectural government or directly to the PMDA.<sup>233</sup> The PMDA determines whether approval is granted or denied after examining the cosmetics item, ingredients and amounts, manufacturing method, and other necessary items.<sup>234</sup>

- Standards and Labeling Obligations

- Standards: In order to import and sell cosmetics into Japan, they must conform to the aforementioned "cosmetics standards".<sup>235</sup>
- Labeling Obligation: The name of the manufacturer and seller, name of the product, serial number, and names of ingredients (in principle, all ingredients are labeled) must be labeled on the product's container or packaging.<sup>236</sup>

2) Customs Act (Article 69 of the Customs Act: Intellectual Property Rights Infringing Goods) Importation of goods that infringe intellectual property rights (trademark rights, copyrights, neighboring rights, patent rights, utility model rights, and design rights) such as counterfeit brand products is prohibited.<sup>237</sup>

3) Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations (Unjustifiable Premiums Law)

For premiums and labeling regulations pertaining to cosmetics, please refer to "3) Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations (Unjustifiable Premiums Law)" in "3.10.2. Major Laws and Regulations" for more information.

4) High Pressure Gas Safety Act

Importation of aerosol products such as spray-type cosmetics requires obtaining a certificate stating that the High Pressure Gas Safety Act does not apply.<sup>238</sup> However, the law does not apply if the importer itself prepares the prescribed test report and meets the requirements specified by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (content volume of 1 liter or less and internal pressure of 0.8 megapascal or less).<sup>239</sup> In addition, compliance with the Product Liability (PL) Law and laws and regulations related to container and packaging recycling is also

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<sup>232</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>233</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>234</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>235</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>236</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>237</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>238</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>239</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

required.<sup>240</sup>

#### 5) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Since some cosmetics are prohibited or regulated for importation under CITES, it is important to check the ingredients in advance. According to the Japanese Customs, there have been cases in recent years where cosmetics containing ingredients such as orchids, cacti, sturgeon, and other ingredients have had their imports suspended.<sup>241</sup> For details, please refer to “2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).”

#### Column 6: "Pre-inspection of cosmetics"

In some cases, imported cosmetics contain ingredients other than those specified in the cosmetics standards and in excess of the maximum content limits. Although pre-inspection of cosmetics in Japan is not mandatory, in order to ensure safe products for sale, it is recommended that they are inspected by a Japanese inspection agency, etc., to confirm compliance with the cosmetics standard.

Source: Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2024), "Manual for Import and Sale of Cosmetics and Quasi- pharmaceutical products 2024" (in Japanese)  
[https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/pdf\\_publications\\_00632023.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/pdf_publications_00632023.pdf), accessed on 6 September 2024

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<sup>240</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Import procedures for Cosmetics: Japan" (in Japanese)  
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010768.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>241</sup> Japan Customs "Washington Convention" (in Japanese)  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/mizugiwa/washington/washington.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

## 3.12. Import/Export Procedures for Wood and Wood Products

### 3.12.1. Tariff Classification

Woods and wood products fall under Class 44. Since HS codes for woods, in particular, differ depending on material, shape, etc., it is recommended that the importers present the detailed information on specific cosmetics products and inquire to the Customs Counselor's Office in advance (Utilize the [Advance Ruling on Classification](#)<sup>242</sup>).<sup>243</sup>

**Table 37: Tariff Classification Number (HS Code) of Major Wood and Wood Products**

Name of products	Details	HS Code*
Rough wood	Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared.	4403
Wood (sawing at least 6 mm thick)	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm.	4407
Wooden products	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood; caskets and cases for jewelry or cutlery, and similar articles, of wood; statuettes and other ornaments, of wood; wooden articles of furniture not falling in Chapter 94.	4420
Other Wood Products	Wooden products other than the above	4421
Wooden furniture (for office use)	Wooden furniture of a kind used in offices	9403.30
Wooden furniture (for kitchen)	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the kitchen	9403.40
Wooden furniture (for bedroom)	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the bedroom	9403.50
Wooden furniture (other uses)	Other wooden furniture	9403.60

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Timber" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010792.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024; Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule as of January 1 2024"

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

\* The HS codes listed are based on information as of July 2024, and the codes after the seventh digit are Japan-specific codes. HS codes may vary widely depending on the material of the item, whether it has been processed, and its intended use, etc. Please check with customs or other organizations for accurate information.

### 3.12.2. Major Laws and Regulations

#### 1) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Please note that the importation of woods, wooden furniture, wooden products, and other products made of woods will be regulated if the woods are subject to CITES.<sup>244</sup> If the importation is regulated, the details of the regulation and procedures such as required documents differ depending on which of the annexes in the Convention the importation falls under.<sup>245</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.8 Convention on International Trade in Endangered

<sup>242</sup> Japan Customs, "1.Advance Ruling on Classification"

<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>243</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Timber" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010792.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>244</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Timber" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010792.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

<sup>245</sup> Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization, "Q&A on Small-Lot Imports – Others" <https://www.mipro.or.jp/import/qanda/itmes/etc/q21.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).”

## 2) Plant Protection Act

Woods that has been processed (lumber, preservative treated wood, etc.) are basically exempted from phytosanitary measures, but wood and logs that contain bark are subject to the act and submitting a Phytosanitary certificate is required.<sup>246</sup> For details, please refer to "2.2.1 Plant Protection Act."

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<sup>246</sup> Japan External Trade Organization “Import procedures for Timber” <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010792.html>, accessed on 6 September 2024

## **4. Frequently Asked Questions**

## 4.1. Import Procedures

Q. What are the procedures and documents required for importation into Japan?

A. The applicable laws and required documents vary depending on the product being imported. Please refer to the following table and the corresponding sections of this handbook.

**Table 38: Major Laws on Imports**

	Food Sanitation Act →p.13	Plant Protection Act →p.11	Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock →p.60	Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act →p.18	Other
Vegetables, fruits, nuts, grains, coffee beans (green beans), herbs, spices	○	○		△	
Meat, meat products, dairy products, etc.	○		○		
Fishery products	○				Act on the Protection of Marine Resources →p.47 Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants→p.47
Liquor	○				
Sugar and starch sweetened condiments	○				Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch →p.18
Other processed foods	○	△	△	△	
Cosmetics					Act on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices→p.18
Jewelry					Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)→p.23

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (2023) "Guide to Food Import 2023" [https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/p\\_0111go18.pdf](https://www.mipro.or.jp/Document/hti0re0000000vi2-att/p_0111go18.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024



## 4.2. Tariffs and Taxes

Q. How much import duty will I have to pay?

A. Since tariff rates are depending on the HS code of the products, please check the HS code of the product which you are importing and refer to Japan's [Tariff Schedule<sup>247</sup>](#) to confirm the tariff rates. Some products may be subject to the Tariff Quota System or Gate Price System. In addition, depending on the country of origin, some goods may be eligible for duty reduction or exemption under the preferential tariff system.<sup>248</sup> Since tariff classification and tariff rates may differ even for the same commodity depending on the country of origin, properties of the commodity, degree of processing, etc., it is recommended to contact your local customs office (→ [Customs List<sup>249</sup>](#) ) for further information.

There is also a system called the "Advance ruling system" that allows you to make inquiries in advance to the Customs regarding the goods to be imported and receive a response. If you make a written enquiry (using the form of advance ruling system), you will receive a response paper (valid for three years). If the response paper is attached to the import declaration, the contents of which can be respected on the customs examination.<sup>250</sup> For information on item classification and tariff rates, please refer to the "[Advance Ruling on Classification<sup>251</sup>](#)". For information on rules of origin, see the "[Advance Ruling on Origin<sup>252</sup>](#)".

Q. Are there any taxes other than customs duties?

A. For details, please refer to "2.3.6 Taxes other than Tariffs " in this handbook. In the case of alcoholic beverages, alcohol tax is levied in accordance with the Liquor Tax Act.<sup>253</sup> In addition, sugar and starch are subject to the price adjustment system and an adjustment fee is charged.<sup>254</sup> For details on the procedures for importing sugar and starch, please refer to "2.2.5 Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch" in this handbook. Other products are basically free from the taxes except for the customs duties and a 10% consumption tax (as of July 2024).

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Q. What documents do I need to prepare for customs clearance?

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<sup>247</sup> Japan Customs "Japan's Tariff Schedule" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/2024\\_04\\_01/index.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/2024_04_01/index.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>248</sup> Japan Customs "1105 Types of Tariffs (FAQ) : Japan Customs" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1105\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1105_e.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>249</sup> Japan Customs "9301 Contact list of Customs Counselors (FAQ)" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/sonota/9301\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/sonota/9301_e.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>250</sup> Japan Customs, "1. Advance Ruling on Classification" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>; Japan Customs, "2. Advance Ruling on Origin" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/origin.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>251</sup> Japan Customs, "1. Advance Ruling on Classification" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/classification.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>252</sup> Japan Customs, "2. Advance Ruling on Origin" <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/advance/origin.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>253</sup> Japan External Trade Organization "Import procedures for Alcoholic Beverage: Japan" (in Japanese) <https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/qa/04M-010572.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>254</sup> Japanese Law Translation "Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch (Act No. 109 of 1965) " <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4438/en>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>255</sup> Interviews with business operators importing goods from Pacific Island Countries into Japan

A. Generally, the recipient of imported goods must submit an import (tax payment) declaration form, stating the name, quantity, value, etc. of the goods, as well as the amount of tariffs and excise tax, to the director of the relevant customs office, and pay the tariffs and excise tax before collecting the imported goods.<sup>256</sup> Depending on the country of origin, there may be cases where procedures and documents related to rules of origin, etc. are required.<sup>257</sup> For details on rules of origin, please refer to "2.3.5 Rules of Origin" in this handbook.

### **4.3. Things to Consider When Selling**

Q. What are the quality standards and specifications required when selling products in Japan?

A. Please check the Food Labeling Act ("2.2.6 Food Labeling Act" in this handbook), the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations, and Japanese Agricultural Standards ("2.2.7 Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards"), etc.

### **4.4. Quarantine and Safety Standards**

Q. What kinds of items are subject to quarantine?

A. In accordance with the Food Sanitation Act, when importing foods and food products, import notification and other relevant documents must be submitted. If it is deemed necessary to inspect the food, it will be subject to food quarantine. For details, please refer to "2.2.2 Food Sanitation Act". In addition, there may be cases where plant quarantine based on the Plant Protection Act (please refer to "2.2.1 Plant Protection Act" for details), animal quarantine based on the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock (please refer to "2) Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock" in "3.8.2 Major Laws and Regulations" for details), an inspection based on Act on Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources (please refer to "2) Act on the Protection of Marine Resources" in "3.3.2 Major Laws and Regulations" for details) are required. It is recommended to contact the following for further information.

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<sup>256</sup> National Tax Agency "No.6563 Import transactions" (in Japanese)

<https://www.nta.go.jp/taxes/shiraberu/taxanswer/shohi/6563.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>257</sup> Japan Customs "Rules of Origin", <https://www.customs.go.jp/roo/english/index.htm>, accessed on 9 August 2024

**Table 39: Contact information for quarantine inquiries**

Quarantine	Related Laws and Regulations	Contact Information
Food Quarantine	Food Sanitation Act	<a href="#">Quarantine Station<sup>258</sup></a>
Plant Quarantine	Plant Protection Act	<a href="#">Plant Protection Station<sup>259</sup></a>
Animal Quarantine	Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock Act on Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources	<a href="#">Animal Quarantine Services<sup>260</sup></a>

## 4.5. Import Restricted Items

Q. What products are prohibited or restricted for import into Japan?

A. For information on prohibited and restricted imports, please refer to "2.3.3 Regulated Items" in this handbook. Although there are many cases where Kava products being considered to be exported to Japan, since products containing Kava have been found to contain pharmaceutical ingredients and there is a risk of health damage, it is prohibited to import Kava products into Japan without the approval of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).<sup>261</sup> The MHLW has designated Kava as an unapproved and unlicensed pharmaceutical product<sup>262</sup>. There are no products that are approved or licensed as pharmaceutical products containing Kava in Japan, and they are subject to monitoring and control (as of July 2024).

## 4.6. Transportation and Logistics

Q. Which is more efficient, sea transportation or air transportation?

A. In general, it is recommended to choose sea transportation for transporting cargo in large quantities and air transportation for small quantities. The advantages and disadvantages of each mode of transportation are shown in Table 40 below.

**Table 40: Advantages/Disadvantages of Sea and Air Transportation**

	Sea transportation	Air transportation
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In case of dry containers, it is difficult to control temperature and humidity inside them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The temperature in the freight compartment is basically maintained between 4 and 27 degrees Celsius.</li> <li>➤ Low risk of theft or damage.</li> </ul>
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It takes longer transport time and longer time for cargo handling and import/export customs clearance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It takes shorter transportation time, and shorter time for cargo handling and import/export customs clearance.</li> </ul>

<sup>258</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Quarantine Station" <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou/quarantine.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>259</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Plant Protection Station" [https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/information/language\\_top.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/information/language_top.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>260</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Animal Quarantine Services", <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>261</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Information about products containing kava" (in Japanese) <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/kinkyu/diet/tuuchi/1128-1.html>, accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>262</sup> An unapproved and unlicensed pharmaceutical product is not medicine but is sold claiming efficacy and effectiveness like a medicine, or a health food product that contain medicinal ingredients.

	Sea transportation	Air transportation
	➤ Relatively high risk of delay due to weather conditions at sea, port congestion, international affairs, etc.	➤ Low risk of delay and quick schedule recovery in case of delay.
Cost	➤ Freight costs are relatively low. ➤ Costs of transporting the cargo to the bonded area might be necessary.	➤ Freight costs are several times higher than sea transport.
Load capacity	➤ Large amount of cargo can be transported at one time.	➤ There are loading capacity restrictions and size restrictions.
Others	➤ Waterproof and strong packaging is required to protect the goods from rough weather and rough handling.	➤ Some items cannot be transported by air due to regulations. ➤ Since transportation freight is charged on a pay-as-you-go basis, lightweight packing materials should be chosen.

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on interviews with business operators

Q. What kind of documents are required for transportation?

A. Documents required for transportation are as shown in Table 41 below. For import declaration, a "Declaration of importation (tax payment)" must be submitted to the Customs director. Please refer to "2.1.1 Process of Commencing Export Business" for details.

**Table 41: Documents required for transport**

	necessary documents	Details
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ For sea freight, Bill of Lading (B/L) or Sea Way Bill (SWB)</li> <li>✓ For air freight, Air Way Bill (AWB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bill of lading (B/L) is provided from the shipping company to the shipper in exchange for loading the goods. For the consignee, a B/L is securities necessary to receive goods arriving in Japan from the shipping company.</li> <li>✓ SWB is a contract of carriage between the shipper and the shipping company with respect to sea transportation, and is made at the time the carrier accepts the consignment of goods from the shipper and undertakes to carry them.</li> <li>✓ An AWB is a contract of carriage between the shipper and a carrier for the carriage of air cargo, and is made at the time the carrier accepts the goods from the shipper and undertakes to carry them.</li> </ul>
2	Arrival Notice (A/L)	It is a document notifying the arrival of cargo with B/L number, ship's name, etc. Basically, it is prepared by shipping companies, agents, and forwarders.
3	Packing List (P/L)	It describes the quantity, weight, information, place of origin, etc. of the goods, and is basically prepared by the exporter.
4	Invoice	A statement of the name, quantity, price, etc. of the goods, which is made in the exporting country.
5	Insurance premium statement	If a cargo is insured, the insurance premium must be included in the taxable value and is required at the time of import declaration.
6	Other documents required depending on the type of cargo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Certificate of permission under other laws and regulations (for shipments requiring permission or approval under laws other than customs-related laws, such as Plant Protection Act and Food Sanitation Act, etc.)</li> <li>2) Certificate of origin (when applying for preferential tariffs)</li> <li>3) Tax exemption statement (when applying for tax exemption or reduction)</li> </ul>	

Source: Created by QUNIE CORPORATION based on information from Japan Customs "1107 Documents to be Submitted for Import Clearance (FAQ) : Japan Customs" [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/imtsukan/1107\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1107_e.htm); Nisshin Unyu Kogyo Co., Ltd. "What are the basics of the documents required for import declaration?" (in Japanese) <https://nisshin21.co.jp/>; MARUICHI KAIUN CO., LTD "[For beginners in overseas trade]Introducing 4 basic documents required when importing cargo" <https://mkc-net2.com/documents-required-for-import/>, accessed on 9 August 2024

## 4.7. How to Find Business Partners

Q. How can I find Japanese business partners?

A. You can utilize trade shows as an opportunity to meet potential business partners, directly conduct sales, or utilize business matching websites. Below are some useful databases and platforms.

- Many companies find their potential customers at the exhibitions or the international trade fairs.<sup>263</sup> JETRO's exhibition database "[Online Trade Fair Database \(J-messe\)](#)"<sup>264</sup> allows you to search for upcoming exhibitions and trade fairs with respect to event period, industry, location, etc.
- By registering for [JAPAN-PACIFIC e-Business](#) <sup>265</sup>, a business matching website operated by the Pacific Islands Centre (PIC), you can browse the trade and investment demands in Japan and the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, as well as information on the registered companies. If you would like to consult with PIC directly, please contact using the contact form below, which can be found on the PIC website.  
Japanese: <https://pic.or.jp/about-pic/contact/>  
English: <https://pic.or.jp/en/contact/>
- You can also contact your country's investment promotion authority and chamber of commerce. And if your country has an embassy in Japan, it will be possible to contact the embassy directly (mainly via e-mail).

Q. Do I have to conduct the import declaration to Japan by myself?

A. Some importers use customs brokers to handle customs declaration procedures on their behalf. The fees vary depending on the customs broker.<sup>266</sup> Customs brokers also handle the declaration procedures for food import notifications at food quarantine stations on behalf of importers. The Japan Customs Brokers Association (JCBA), an industry organization of customs brokers, offer a [Customs Brokers Search System](#)<sup>267</sup>

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<sup>263</sup> From the interviews with business operators

<sup>264</sup> Japan External Trade Organization, "Online Trade Fair Database J-messe" <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/database/j-messe/>

<sup>265</sup> Pacific Islands Centre, "JAPAN-PACIFIC e-Business" <https://picebiz.com/>

<sup>266</sup> From the interviews with business operators

<sup>267</sup> Japan Customs Brokers Association, "Custom Brokers Search System" <https://www.tsukangyo.or.jp/pages/29/>

## **5. Appendix**

## 5.1. List of Customs

For inquiries regarding the importation of goods into Japan, please contact the customs office with jurisdiction over the destination of your shipment.

There are nine customs offices, as shown in **Table 42**. For information on each office and contact information, please refer to "[Jurisdiction and Location of Japan Customs](#)<sup>268</sup>". For information on whom to contact, please refer to "[9301 Contact list of Customs Counselors \(FAQ\)](#)<sup>269</sup>".

**Table 42: Jurisdiction of Customs**

Customs	Jurisdiction
<a href="#">Hakodate Customs</a> <sup>270</sup>	Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, and Akita
<a href="#">Tokyo Customs</a> <sup>271</sup>	Yamagata, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba (Baraki and Baraki 1-chome to Baraki 4-chome in Ichikawa-shi, Narita-shi, Tako-machi in Katori-gun, Shibayama-machi in Sanbu-gun), Tokyo, Niigata, and Yamanashi
<a href="#">Yokohama Customs</a> <sup>272</sup>	Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba (Excluding an area under the jurisdiction of Tokyo Customs), and Kanagawa
<a href="#">Nagoya Customs</a> <sup>273</sup>	Nagano, Gifu, Shizuoka, Aichi, and Mie
<a href="#">Osaka Customs</a> <sup>274</sup>	Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, and Wakayama
<a href="#">Kobe Customs</a> <sup>275</sup>	Hyogo, Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi
<a href="#">Moji Customs</a> <sup>276</sup>	Yamaguchi, Fukuoka (Excluding areas belonging to the jurisdiction of the Nagasaki customs), Saga (Karatsu-shi, Imari-shi, Higashimatsuura-gun, and Nishimatsuura-gun), Nagasaki (Tsushima-shi and Iki-shi), Oita, and Miyazaki
<a href="#">Nagasaki Customs</a> <sup>277</sup>	Fukuoka (Oomuta-shi, Kurume-shi, Yanagawa-shi, Yame-shi, Chikugo-shi, Ookawa-shi, Ogoori-shi, Ukiha-shi, Mii-gun, Mizuma-gun, Yame-gun, Yamato-gun, and Miike-gun), Saga (excluding an area belonging to the jurisdiction of Moji Customs), Nagasaki (excluding an area belonging to the jurisdiction of Moji Customs), Kumamoto, Kagoshima
<a href="#">Okinawa District Customs</a> <sup>278</sup>	Okinawa

Source: Japan Customs "Jurisdiction and Location of Japan Customs", [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/index.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/index.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>268</sup> Japan Customs "Jurisdiction and Location of Japan Customs",

[https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/index.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/index.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>269</sup> Japan Customs "9301 Contact list of Customs Counselors", [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/sonota/9301\\_e.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/sonota/9301_e.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>270</sup> Hakodate Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/hakodate/hakodate\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/hakodate/hakodate_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>271</sup> Tokyo Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/tokyo/tokyo\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/tokyo/tokyo_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>272</sup> Yokohama Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/yokohama/yokohama\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/yokohama/yokohama_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>273</sup> Nagoya Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/nagoya/nagoya\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/nagoya/nagoya_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>274</sup> Osaka Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/osaka/osaka\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/osaka/osaka_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>275</sup> Kobe Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/kobe/kobe\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/kobe/kobe_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>276</sup> Moji Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/moji/moji\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/moji/moji_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>277</sup> Nagasaki Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/nagasaki/nagasaki\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/nagasaki/nagasaki_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>278</sup> Okinawa District Customs [https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map\\_e/okinawa/okinawa\\_m.htm](https://www.customs.go.jp/english/common/map_e/okinawa/okinawa_m.htm), accessed on 9 August 2024

## 5.2. List of Plant Protection Stations

If you have any questions regarding the Plant Protection Act, please contact the Plant Protection Station listed below. The contact information can be found in the [Address List of Plant Protection Stations](#)<sup>279</sup> on the Plant Protection Station website. Questions can be submitted by filling the [form of questions and comments](#)<sup>280</sup> on the Plant Protection Station website. The jurisdiction of each Plant Protection Station is listed in **Table 43**.

**Table 43: Jurisdiction of Plant Protection Station**

Plant Protection Station	Jurisdiction
Yokohama Plant Protection Station	Yokohama Head Office, Sapporo Sub-station, Shin Chitose Airport Branch, Shiogama Sub-station, Narita Sub-station (Terminal 1), Narita Sub-station (Terminal 2, 3), Tokyo Sub-station, Haneda Airport Sub-station (Terminal 3), Haneda Airport Sub-station (Terminal 2), Niigata Sub-station
Nagoya Plant Protection Station	Nagoya Head Office, Chubu Airport Sub-station, Fushiki Toyama Sub-station, Shimizu Sub-station
Kobe Plant Protection Station	Kobe Head Office, Osaka Sub-station, Kansai Airport Sub-station, Hiroshima Sub-station, Sakaide Sub-station
Moji Plant Protection Station	Moji Head Office, Fukuoka Sub-station, Fukuoka Airport Branch, Kagoshima Sub-station
Naha Plant Protection Station	Naha Head Office, Naha Airport Branch

Source: Yokohama Plant Protection Station, "Address List of Plant Protection Stations (Head Office, Sub-station, Airport Branch etc.)" [https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/export/address\\_list\\_English.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/export/address_list_English.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

## 5.3. List of Animal Quarantine Services

If you have any questions regarding animal quarantine, please contact the Animal Quarantine Service. In addition, there are designated airports and seaports for importing goods that require quarantine (designated quarantine items). The types of designated quarantine items that can be imported are also specified for each airport and seaport. [The contact list of Animal Quarantine Services at airport and seaport](#) is as follows<sup>281</sup>.

**Table 44: List of Animal Quarantine Services**

Animal Quarantine Service	Airport	Seaport	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Hokkaido and Tohoku Branch	New Chitose Airport, Obihiro Airport, Asahikawa Airport, Kushiro Airport	Wakkanai Port, Tomakomai Port, Muroran Port, Kushiro Port, Otaru, Ishikari Port	+81-123-24-6080	aqs.spk@maff.go.jp
Hakodate Airport Sub-branch	Hakodate Airport, Aomori Airport	Hakodate Port, Hachinohe Port	+81-138-84-5415	aqs.hkd@maff.go.jp

<sup>279</sup> Yokohama Plant Protection Station "Address List of Plant Protection Stations (Head Office, Sub-station, Airport Branch etc.)" [https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/export/address\\_list\\_English.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/introduction/export/address_list_English.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

<sup>280</sup> Yokohama Plant Protection Station "Questions and Comments", [https://www.contactus.maff.go.jp/j/pps/form/ga\\_e.html](https://www.contactus.maff.go.jp/j/pps/form/ga_e.html), accessed on 9 August 2024

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Animal Quarantine Service	Airport	Seaport	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Sendai Airport Sub-branch	Akita Airport, Sendai Airport, Yamagata Airport, Fukushima Airport, Hanamaki Airport	Ishinomaki Port, Akita Port, Onahama Port, Sendai-Shiogama Port, Akitafunakawa Port, Kamaishi Port	+81-22-383-2302	aqs.sdj@maff.go.jp
Narita Branch, Cargo Inspection Division	Narita International Airport, Ibaraki (Hyakuri) Airport	Kashima, Hitachinaka	+81-476-32-6655	aqs.nrtcargo@maff.go.jp
Haneda Airport Branch (Cargo)	Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)	-	+81-3-5757-9755	aqs.hndcargo@maff.go.jp
Tokyo Sub-branch	-	Keihin Port (Tokyo)	+81-3-3529-3021	aqs.tyo@maff.go.jp
Chiba Annex	-	Chiba Port	+81-47-432-7241	aqs.chb@maff.go.jp
Yokohama Head Office Animal-Products Inspection Division	-	Keihin Port (Yokohama, Kawasaki)	+81-45-201-9478	aqs.yokchiku@maff.go.jp
Kawasaki Sub-branch	-	Keihin Port (Kawasaki)	+81-44-287-7412	aqs.kws@maff.go.jp
Niigata Airport Sub-branch	Shonai Airport, Niigata Airport	Sakata Port, Niigata Port, Naoetsu Port	+81-25-275-4565	aqs.nii@maff.go.jp
Shizuoka Sub-branch (Shimizu Seaport office) (Shizuoka Airport office)	Shizuoka Airport	Shimizu Port	+81-54-353-5086 +81-548-29-2440	aqs.smz@maff.go.jp
Chubu Airport Branch	Chubu International Airport	Mikawa Port	+81-569-38-8579	aqs.nga@maff.go.jp
Nagoya Sub-branch	Nagoya Airfield	Nagoya Port	+81-52-651-0334	aqs.ngo@maff.go.jp
Yokkaichi Annex		Yokkaichi Port	+81-593-52-6918	aqs.ngo@maff.go.jp
Komatsu Sub-branch	Komatsu Airfield, Toyama Airport	Fushiki-Toyama Port, Kanazawa Port	+81-761-24-1407	aqs.kmq@maff.go.jp
Kansai Airport Branch (Cargo)	Kansai International Airport Osaka International Airport	Wakayama-Shimotsu Port	+81-72-455-1958	aqs.kixcargo@maff.go.jp
Kobe Branch	Kobe Airport	Hanshin Port (Kobe Port, Amagasaki-Nishinomiya-Ashiya Port), Himeji Port, Maiduru Port	+81-78-222-8990	aqs.ukb@maff.go.jp
Osaka Sub-branch	-	Hanshin Port (Osaka)	+81-6-6575-3466	aqs.osa@maff.go.jp

Animal Quarantine Service	Airport	Seaport	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Yonago Airport Sub-branch	Yonago Airport (Miho Airfield), Tottori Airport, Izumo Airport	Sakai Port, Hamada Port	+81-859-45-3800	aq.s.yng@maff.go.jp
Okayama Airport Sub-branch	Okayama Airport	Mizushima Port	+81-86-294-4737	aq.s.okj@maff.go.jp
Hiroshima Airport Sub-branch	Hiroshima Airport	Hiroshima Port, Fukuyama Port	+81- 848-86-8118	aq.s.hit@maff.go.jp
Shikoku Sub-branch (Komatsujima Seaport office) (Takamatsu Airport office)	Tokushima Airfield, Kochi Airport, Takamatsu Airport, Matsuyama Airport	Tokushima-Komatsujima Port, Kochi Port, Takamatsu Port, Matsuyama Port, Imabari Port, Mishima-Kawanoe Port	+81-885-32-2422 +81-87-879-4654	aq.s.tak@maff.go.jp
Moji Branch	Kitakyusyu Airport, Oita, Yamaguchi-Ube Airport	Kanmon Port, Oita Port	+81-93-321-1116	aq.s.moj@maff.go.jp
Hakata Sub-branch	-	Hakata Port, Karatsu Port, Hitakatsu Port, Izuhara Port	+81-92-262-5285	aq.s.hkt@maff.go.jp
Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch	Fukuoka Airport, Kumamoto Airport, Saga Airport	Yatsushiro Port, Kumamoto Port	+81-92-477-0080	aq.s.fuk@maff.go.jp
Nagasaki Airport Sub-branch	Nagasaki Airport	Nagasaki Port, Imari Port	+81-957-54-4505	aq.s.ngs@maff.go.jp
Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch	Kagoshima Airport, Miyazaki Airport	Shibushi Port, Kagoshima Port, Hososhima Port, Satumasendai Port	+81-995-43-9061	aq.s.kop@maff.go.jp
Okinawa Branch	ShinIshigaki Airport	Naha Port, Hirara Port, Ishigaki Port	+81-98-861-4370	aq.s.nah@maff.go.jp
Naha Airport Sub-branch	Naha Airport	-	+81-98-857-4468	aq.s.nap@maff.go.jp

Source: Animal Quarantine Service, "Contact list of Animal Quarantine Service at airport and seaport", [https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/attach/pdf/aqs\\_contact\\_list\\_en\\_ap.pdf](https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/attach/pdf/aqs_contact_list_en_ap.pdf), accessed on 9 August 2024

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