

Press Release

(This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

29 March 2013

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Revision of the Procedure for Import and Export Business of Organic Foods under Organic JAS System

From April 1st, 2013, the procedure of import and export business of organic foods under Organic JAS System will be revised as follows.

1. Overview

From April 1st, 2013, European Union (EU) will revise the conditions for organic foods which are exported from Japan to EU labeled as "organic".

Also, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will revise the procedure for organic foods which are imported from the countries which organic systems are equivalent with Japanese system.

2. The Revision of the Conditions for Organic Foods which Conform to JAS for Organic Foods, and are Exported from Japan to EU Labeled as "Organic"

Only the ingredients which are produced in Japan could be used for organic processed foods which conform to JAS for organic foods, and are exported from Japan to EU labeled as "organic".

From April 1st, 2013, the ingredients which are produced in the countries*¹ which organic systems are equivalent with Japanese system will be able to be used for organic processed foods which conform to JAS for organic foods, and are exported from Japan to EU labeled as "organic".

*1 EU member nations, United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Argentina

3. The Revision of the Procedure for Import Business of Organic Foods from the Countries which Organic Systems are Equivalent with Organic JAS System

(1) Previously, JAS certified importers attached Organic JAS logo checking certificate which is issued by the governmental organization of exporting country when they import organic plants or organic processed foods of plant

origin from the countries which organic systems are recognized as equivalent with Organic JAS System.

From April 1st, 2013, JAS certified importers will be able to consign Organic JAS logo attachment business to an operator certified by the grading system of a foreign country which Japan recognizes as equivalent with Organic JAS System

(2) Also, previously, only the certification which is issued by governmental organization of exporting country could be acceptable.

From April 1st, 2013, the certifications which are issued by control bodies of exporting country which the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries appointed as quasi-governmental organization are also acceptable.

<ANNEX>

• List of Name and Address of Control Bodies which are appointed as quasi-governmental organization

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