

Technical Criteria for Certifying Importers of Organic Plants and
Organic Processed Foods of Plant Origin
(Notification No. 1834 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of November 25, 2005)
(Preliminary Translation)

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I. Facilities for Acceptance and Storage of Imports

Facilities to accept and store imported organic plants and organic processed foods of plant origin shall comply with the criteria of “Management concerning transportation, selection, processing, cleaning, storage, packaging, and other post-harvest processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese agricultural Standard of organic plants (Notification No. 1605 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005; hereinafter referred to as the “JAS for organic plants”) and “Management concerning manufacturing, processing, packaging, storage, and other processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese Agricultural Standard of organic processed foods (Notification No.1606 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005: hereinafter referred to as the “JAS for organic processed foods”), and shall be provided with such broadness, structure and brightness not as interfering the acceptance, storage and packaging of the imported products and shall be cleaned appropriately.

II. Methods for Acceptance and Storage of Imports

1. Directors in charge of acceptance and storage prescribed in III-2 in these criteria shall conduct as follows:
 - (1) Drafting and promoting a plan on acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products; and
 - (2) Handling and providing guidance on troubles occurred in the process.
2. Internal rules on the following items shall be practically and systematically provided:
 - (1) Acceptance, storage and packaging of organic plants and organic processed foods of plant origin;
 - (2) Confirmation of certificates issued by overseas governments or semi-governmental organizations (limited to of the countries stipulated in Article 37 of the Enforcement Regulations for the Law Concerning Japanese Agricultural Standards etc. (Ministerial Ordinance of No.62 of 1950). Semi-governmental organizations are limited to those publicized in accordance with Article 38 of the Ministerial Ordinance.);
 - (3) Making records of acceptance, storage and packaging as well as the retention period of those records and supporting documents for them;
 - (4) Dealing with complaints
 - (5) Matters necessary for a certifying body (registered Japanese or overseas certifying body;

hereinafter the same) to properly conduct services such as confirmation of acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products; and
(6) Machines and tools for packaging.

3. Acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products shall be properly conducted in accordance with the internal rules.
4. The internal rules shall be reviewed properly and periodically, and fully notified to the employees.

III. Qualification and Number of Persons in Charge of Acceptance and Storage of Imports

1. Person in charge for acceptance and storage

No less than one person who satisfy(ies) any of the requirements shall be assigned as person(s) in charge of acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products (hereinafter referred to as “person in charge of acceptance and storage”):

- (1) Those who graduated from a high school or a secondary education school under the School Education Law (Law No.26 of 1947); or whose qualifications are equal to or higher than the above; and who have practical experiences in food distribution for no less than two years; or
- (2) Those who have practical experiences in food distribution for no less than three years.

2. Director in charge of acceptance and storage

- (1) Where one person is assigned as a person in charge of acceptance and storage, the person shall complete a curriculum on acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products in a course designated by a certifying body (hereinafter referred to as “course”) as a director in charge of acceptance and storage.
- (2) Where no less than two persons are assigned as persons in charge of acceptance and storage, one of them who completed the curriculum on acceptance, storage and packaging of imported products shall be selected as a director in charge of acceptance and storage.

IV. Section for Attaching Grading Labels and Implementation Methods

1. Section for attaching grading labels

The department for attaching grading labels shall be a substantially independent section and have an independent authority from the sales department.

2. Implementation methods for grading labels

- (1) Rules on grading label (hereinafter referred to as “grading label rules”) shall be practically and systematically provided for the following matters:
 - a. Labeling as graded;
 - b. Shipping and disposing a lot after labeling as graded;
 - c. Handling of a lot which is turned out to be non-compliant with the Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Plants or Organic processed foods after its shipment;
 - d. Making and keeping a record of labeling as graded; and
 - e. Matters necessary for a certification body to properly conduct services such as confirmation of grading.

- f. Matters for supervising an entity that has received following consignment (hereinafter referred to as a “consignee”) in the case where the part of the service concerning grading labels is consigned to the entity which has received an act corresponding to being certified by a certifying body based on the grading system of a foreign country which Japan recognizes as equivalent to the grading system of Japan for Specified Agricultural and Forestry Products.
- (2) Grading labels shall be recognized as properly attached, removed or deleted in accordance with the grading label rules without fail.
- (3) Name of products shall be properly labeled by the methods prescribed in Article 5 of the JAS for organic plants. Names of products and names of ingredients shall be properly labeled by the methods prescribed in Article 5 of the JAS for organic processed foods.

V. Qualification and Number of Persons in Charge of Grading Labeling

No less than one person in charge for grading label (hereinafter referred to as “staff in charge of grading label”) who has (have) completed the curriculum on grading labeling shall be assigned. No less than one person who has (have) completed the curriculum on grading label shall be assigned at the consignee as the staff who assists the staff in charge of grading label.

(Schedule of the last revision)

Notification No.692 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of March 29, 2018 becomes effective as from April 1, 2018.