It is scheduled to agree on an organic equivalency* recognition between Japan and 4 countries (US, Canada, Switzerland, and Australia) before 16 July. Organic livestock products and organic processed products with animal origin ingredients produced in the above mentioned countries can be imported and label as organic products using an organic equivalency recognition.

*organic equivalency means to treat other country’s organic certification as equivalent to own country’s organic certification

Can we label as organic for imported organic products?

Do you know that labelling organic plant products and processed products of plant origin as “organic” requires the JAS certification and logo mark (         )? From 16 July 2020, organic livestock products (beef, eggs, etc.) and organic processed processed products of animal origin ingredients (ham, cheese, milk chocolate, etc.) will also require the JAS certification and logo mark (         ).*

* Honey etc. is exempted from application of this system.
* Labelling products as “organic” etc. without the organic JAS logo mark may be subject to orders by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for removal of labelling and/or prohibition of sale. Failure to comply with this order may result in a sentence of penal servitude of up to 1 year or fine of up to 1 million yen (or 100 million yen for legal entities)

Procedures in case of using equivalency recognition

[US, Canada, Switzerland and Australia]
Attachment of organic JAS Logos by Importers Certified by Accredited Japanese Certifying Bodies is required

[Other countries and regions]
Unless manufacturers are certified by organic JAS certification bodies, products cannot be labelled as organic!
Examples of products under the new scope (processed products which contain more than 5% of livestock products are under the scope)

- Beef
- Milk
- Ham
- Cheese
- Butter
- Chocolate
- Ice cream

* Limited to products made from domestic animals (cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs) or domestic poultry (chickens, quails, ostriches, ducks and wild ducks)

Business operators for livestock products and processed foods

- Producer ✔
- Butcher ✔
- Distributor ✔
- Processor ✔
- Retailer ✔
- Importer ✔

Importers are required to be JAS certified

Labelling examples

- Organic livestock products
- Organic livestock products XX (or XX organic livestock products)
- Organic XX (or XX organic)
- Organic XX (or XX organic in katakana)

Transition period

- Any new labelling on or after 16 July 2020 will be subject to this regulation. This also applies to livestock products or processed products that were produced, made or processed before 16 July.
- Imports will be subject to this regulation when the following tasks are to be performed on or after 16 July 2020: ✔Sales ✔Consignment ✔Display products for sale etc.

The organic JAS mark mascot character: JAS-maro, a fairy

- Imported livestock products and processed products from countries other than US, Canada, Switzerland and Australia cannot be labelled as organic unless manufacturers are certified by organic JAS certification bodies.
- New scope includes livestock products and processed products which contain more than 5% of livestock products as ingredients (i.e. biscuit, ice cream) are under the scope.

---Contact for inquiries---

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(FAMIC is an independent administrative agency under MAFF)