

Technical Criteria for Certifying Importers of Organic Plant Products,
Organic Livestock Products and Organic Processed Foods
(Joint Public Notice of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries No.27
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1 Scope

This standard specifies the technical criteria for Certifying Importers of Organic Plant Products, Organic Livestock Products and Organic Processed Foods, based on which accredited certification bodies conduct such certification assessment in accordance with Article 12-1) and Article 31-1) of Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards (Act No.175 of 1950. Hereinafter referred to as “Act”).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this Japanese Agricultural Standard. For undated references, the latest edition of the referred document applies.

JAS 1605 Organic Products of Plant Origin

JAS 1606 Organic Processed Foods

JAS 1608 Organic Livestock Products

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this criteria, the terms and definitions specified in JAS 1605, JAS 1606, and JAS 1608 apply.

4 Receiving & Storage Facilities for Imported Products

Such facilities must comply with 5.13 of JAS 1605 for Organic Plant Products, 5.7 of JAS 1608 for Organic Livestock Products, and 5.3 of JAS 1606 for Organic Processed Foods, must be adequate for the management activities, with regard to space, lighting and structure, and must be properly cleaned.

5 Implementation Methods for Receiving & Storing Imported Products

5.1 Receiving & Storage Managers specified in 6.2 are obliged to perform the following duties.

a) Planning and promotion with regard to receiving, storing, and packaging of imported products

- b)** Measures and recommendations for abnormalities occurred in the relevant processes

5.2 Internal rules on the following matters must be prepared concretely and systematically

- a)** Matters related to receiving, storing, and packaging of organic plant products, organic livestock products, and organic processed foods
- b)** Matters concerning the confirmation of certificates issued by those government institutions or other organizations recognized as equivalent to those institutions of a foreign country* ((*limited to those countries stipulated in Article 30 of Regulations for the Enforcement of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards (Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries No.3. Hereinafter referred to as “Regulations for the Enforcement”)), that are published in accordance with Article 31 of “Regulation for the Enforcement”.
- c)** Matters concerning the creation of records related to “receiving of imported products” as well as the retention period of the relevant records including the supporting documents for such records.
- d)** Matters concerning the complaints handling
- e)** Matters required for the appropriate business activities, such as implementation status confirmation of “receiving, storing, and packaging of imported products” by the certification bodies
- f)** Matters concerning the machinery and equipment used in the packaging process

5.3 Any business activities related to “receiving, storing, and packaging of imported products”, must be properly carried out in accordance with the internal rules.

5.4 The internal rules must be reviewed properly on a regular basis, and fully disseminated to the employees.

6 Qualification requirements, and a set number of persons in charge of “receiving, storing, and packaging of imported products”

6.1 Receiving & Storage Staff

One or more persons, who satisfy any of the following requirements, must be assigned as a person(s) in charge of “receiving, storing, and packaging of imported products” (hereinafter referred to as “receiving and storage staff”):

- a)** Those who graduated from a high school or a secondary education school under the School Education Law (Law No.26 of 1947) or those who hold an equivalent or higher level of qualification, having more than two years of experience in the food distribution practices.
- b)** Those who have 3 or more years of experience in the food distribution practices.

6.2 Receiving & Storage Managers

The following must be satisfied.

- a)** In the cases where one person is assigned as Receiving & Storage Staff, the same person, as a

Receiving & Storage Manager, must have completed the training course on receiving, storage and packaging processes, which is designated by a certifying body (hereinafter referred to as “training course”).

- b)** In the cases where two or more persons are assigned as Receiving & Storage Staff, one of them who have completed the training course on receiving, storage and packaging processes, must be appointed as a Receiving & Storage Manager.

7 Organizational structure and implementation methods of attaching grade labels

7.1 Organizational structure through which grade labeling is carried out

The grade-labeling department must be independent from the operational units substantially, having independent authority.

7.2 Grade-labeling Methods

7.2.1 Grade-labeling rules on the following matters (hereinafter referred to as “grade-labeling rules”) must be prepared concretely and systematically.

- a)** Matters concerning the grade-labeling
- b)** Matters concerning the shipment or disposal of the lot after grade-labeling
- c)** Matters concerning the handling of those lots found to be in conformity with JAS 1605, JAS 1608, or JAS 1606, after shipment
- d)** Matters concerning the creation and storage of records related to the grading
- e)** Matters required for the appropriate business activities, such as implementation status confirmation (by the certification bodies) of the grading activities.
- f)** Matters concerning the supervision of the operator entrusted with the relevant task (Hereinafter referred to as “subcontractor”), in the cases where part of the grade-labeling tasks for the designated agricultural and forestry products is contracted out to the operator, who has undergone appropriate validation equivalent to the certification (certified by the certification bodies) under the relevant foreign country’s grading system, which is considered equivalent to the Japanese Agricultural Standard-based grading system.

7.2.2 It must be recognized that the labeling of the names of the products shall be carried out properly in accordance with the grade-labeling rules without fail.

7.2.3 It must be recognized that the labeling of the product names shall be carried out properly in accordance with Clause 6 of JAS 1605 (for organic plant products) and Clause 6 of JAS 1608 (for organic livestock products) respectively, and that the labeling of the products & ingredients names shall be carried out properly in accordance with Clause 6 of JAS 1606 (for organic processed foods) without

fail.

8 Qualification and Number of Persons in Charge of Grade-labeling

One or more persons, who have completed the training course on the grade-labeling must be assigned as a person in charge of grade-labeling (“grade-labeling staff”).

In the case of “subcontractor”, one or more persons, who have completed the training course on the grade-labeling must be assigned as a person who assists the “grade-labeling staff”.