



23 April 2020

(20-3216)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: JAPAN If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Animals, plants and their products
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Procedure for temporary measures to accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 3 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/SPS/JPN/20_2863_00_e.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/SPS/JPN/20_2863_01_e.pdf
6. Description of content: The MAFF accepts scanned or hard copies of export certificates for animals, plants and their products to be exported to Japan in order to facilitate trade in face of COVID-19 outbreak. Please follow the procedures in Annex 1 for plant protection or Annex 2 for animal health if you wish to use scanned or hard copies of original export certificates in exporting the products to Japan. If you have any questions about these procedures, please send messages to the following contact points; · Plant protection: Plant Protection Division (ippc_contact@maff.go.jp) · Animal Health: Animal Health Division (iqp@maff.go.jp)
7. Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None

<p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>	
9.	Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable. Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable.</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 21 April 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: Japan Enquiry Point International Trade Division Economic Affairs Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fax: +(8131) 5501 8343 E-mail: enquiry@mofa.go.jp</p>
13.	<p>Text(s) available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: Japan Enquiry Point International Trade Division Economic Affairs Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fax: +(8131) 5501 8343 E-mail: enquiry@mofa.go.jp</p>

Annex 1: Procedure for temporary measurements to accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates for plant health

The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country should send an e-mail to “ippc_contact@maff.go.jp” with an official letter stating that the country would like to apply for the temporary measures in this document.

In case exporters have difficulties to submit certified copies of phytosanitary certificates, the Japan Plant Protection Organization will accept one of the following as the equivalent to the original phytosanitary certificate for the time being.

1. A hard copy of the phytosanitary certificate submitted by the importer that includes specific information on the phytosanitary certificate number identifiable through official website, as well as the confirmation that the certificate is issued by the NPPO of the exporting country.
2. A scanned copy of the phytosanitary certificate in the PDF format, that is provided from the government of exporting country to the Japan Plant Protection Organization (pps_Phyto_mailbox_jp@maff.go.jp) by using one of the following email addresses:

2-1. IPPC Official Contact Point

2-2. Government organizations of the exporting country

2-3. Organization that is notified in advance and registered to the following email address:

Address: ippc_contact@maff.go.jp

When sending an e-mail, please keep in mind the following to facilitate the operation,

- specify the country name in the subject of the e-mail
- create a PDF file for each phytosanitary certificate attaching to the e-mail
- specify the phytosanitary certificate identification number in file name of the attachment.

Even in case when scanned copies of the phytosanitary certificate are accepted, the original phytosanitary certificates must be submitted to the Japan Plant Protection Organization as soon as it becomes available.