



Exporting Organic Products to Japan

As of January 1, 2014, organic products certified in Japan or in the U.S. may be sold as organic in either country. In order to access the Japan market, products certified to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic regulations must either be grown or produced in the U.S, or have had their final processing or packaging (including final labeling) in the U.S.

While this partnership is focused on plant-based organic products, it also clarifies how meat, dairy products, alcoholic beverages, and other products not covered by the Japanese organic standards can enter the Japanese organic market. This partnership streamlines the export certificate process, which also reduces the paperwork burden for farmers and businesses.

Requirements: Organic Plant and Plant-Based Processed Products Exported to Japan

The following products must carry the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) seal:

1. Plants, including fungi.
2. Processed foods of plant origin, such as grape juice or corn meal.

These products may also use the USDA seal, in compliance with the USDA organic regulations, as explained in the labeling section below.

U.S. exporters may apply the JAS logo to their plants or plant-based processed products in one of two ways:

1. U.S. exporters who have a contract with a JAS-certified importer may apply the JAS logo to their products directly for sale in either Japan or the U.S. To view a list of JAS-certified importers, see <http://bit.ly/importers-jas>.
2. U.S. exporters who do not have a contract with a JAS-certified importer may not apply the JAS logo to their products prior to export. A JAS-certified importer must import the product, and that importer must apply the JAS logo to the product prior to sale within Japan.

All organic plant, including fungi, and plant-based processed products exported from the U.S. to Japan must be accompanied by an export certificate. To view the USDA's TM-11 export certificate, see <http://bit.ly/usda-organic-export>.

Requirements: Other USDA Organic Products Exported to Japan

Non-JAS eligible products (e.g., meat, dairy, honey, textiles) certified by a USDA-accredited certifier will continue to enjoy access to the Japanese market. All USDA certified products must comply with the USDA

organic regulations, including labeling requirements for the use of the USDA organic seal. These products may be labeled with the word “organic” in English or Japanese. An export certificate is not required.

Non-JAS eligible products may be sold as organic in Japan; however, they may not use the JAS seal. The U.S. product may display the USDA organic seal if compliant with USDA organic labeling requirements.

Alcohol

Alcohol products certified to the USDA organic standards may be exported to Japan. The alcoholic beverage may display the USDA organic seal if it is compliant with USDA organic labeling requirements. If the alcoholic product is labeled with the word “organic” in the English language, an export certificate is not required. If the alcoholic product is labeled with the word “organic” in the Japanese language, then the product must be accompanied by an export certificate which contains the following information:

- Name of the certified alcoholic beverage
- Name and address of the certified organic farm or brewery
- Certificate number and date
- Name and address of operator
- Country of origin
- Name and address of the organic certifying agent

The USDA TM-11 export certificate issued by a USDA organic certifying agent would meet these requirements.

Labeling

Labels must comply with the following requirements.

Organic products. Products certified as “organic” in the U.S. and meet the terms of the arrangement listed above may be sold as “organic” in Japan. Plants, including fungi, and plant-based processed product labels must include the JAS organic seal and may also include the USDA organic seal.

100% organic products. Japan does not have a labeling category for 100% organic products. Products meeting the terms of the arrangement listed above may be labeled “organic” in Japan. Plants, including fungi, and plant-based processed product labels must include the JAS organic seal and may also include the USDA organic seal.

“Made with” organic products. Japan does not have a labeling category for “made with” organic products. Only products with 95% or more organic content may be labeled as organic in Japan.

Uncertified organic products. Products that haven’t been certified organic may not be traded under this partnership.

Organic Seals



USDA Organic Seal (U.S.)



Name of RCB

JAS Organic Seal (Japan)

When exporting USDA organic products to Japan under this arrangement, operations should replace “Name of RCB” with the name of their organic certifier or JAS-certified importer.