



September 30, 2025

KAWAMINAMI Ken
Director-General for New Business and Food Industry
Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

TAHARA Yoshiyuki
Senior Deputy Commissioner
National Tax Agency

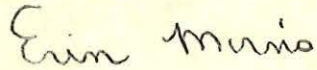
Dear Mr. Kawaminami and Mr. Tahara,

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in coordination with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), has reviewed Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and Ministry of Finance (MOF) Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) for Organic Processed Foods (Notification No. 1606 of 2022) (referred to as the "Japanese organic standards for alcohol beverages"). Based on that review, pursuant to the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) (7 U.S.C. Sec. 6501 *et seq.*), under authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA has determined that alcohol beverages produced and handled in accordance with the Japanese organic standards for alcohol beverages, as published on September 1, 2022, are produced and handled under an organic certification program that provides safeguards and guidelines governing the production and handling of such products that are at least equivalent to the requirements of the OFPA. Recognition of the equivalence of JAS-certified organic plants and organic processed foods of plant origin (other than alcohol products) continues to be covered under the USDA letter of September 26, 2013, and recognition of the equivalence of JAS-certified livestock products and processed food products containing livestock ingredients continues to be covered under the USDA letter of July 14, 2020.

Accordingly, subject to the conditions set forth in the Appendix of this letter, USDA deems alcohol beverages produced and handled in conformity with the Japanese organic standards for alcohol beverages, as in effect on October 1, 2025, equivalent to products that have been produced and handled in accordance with the OFPA and USDA's organic regulations under the National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205). These products may be sold, labeled, and represented in the United States as organically produced, including by display of the USDA organic seal as well as the JAS organic seal, under the conditions set forth in the Appendix.

The United States is also pleased to acknowledge Japan's recognition of the equivalence of the organic system of the United States for alcohol products produced and handled in accordance with the OFPA and USDA's organic regulations in its letter of September 30, 2025. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) are committed to working with the MAFF and National Tax Agency (NTA) as described in this cover letter and in the Appendix and continuing our cooperation with Japan in our joint Organics Working Group.

Sincerely,



Erin Morris
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Julie Callahan
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
Office of Agricultural Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Appendix: Japanese Alcohol Products

- A. Japanese alcohol beverages (except for grape wine) may be sold, labeled, and represented as “organic” in the United States if they are:
1. Certified organic to the JAS organic standards for alcohol beverages;
 2. Either produced in Japan or a product for which final processing and packaging has occurred in Japan; and
 3. Processed without the use of sulfites, including potassium pyrosulfite or sulfur dioxide.
- B. Japanese grape wine may be sold, labeled, and represented as “organic” in the United States if it is:
- a. Certified organic to the JAS organic standards for alcohol beverages;
 - b. Either produced in Japan or a product for which final processing and packaging has occurred in Japan;
 - c. Produced and processed with 100 percent organic grapes;
 - d. Processed without the use of sulfites, including potassium pyrosulfite or sulfur dioxide; and
 - e. Processed using non-organic substances, other than sulfites, only in accordance with 7 CFR 205.605.
- C. Japanese grape wine processed using sulfites may be sold, labeled, and represented as “made with organic grapes” in the United States if it is:
1. Certified organic to the JAS organic standards for alcohol beverages;
 2. Either produced in Japan or a product for which final processing and packaging has occurred in Japan;
 3. Produced and processed with 100 percent organic grapes;

4. Processed using only sulfites listed under [7 CFR 205.605](#), in accordance with restrictions; and
 5. Processed using non-organic substances, only in accordance with [7 CFR 205.605](#).
- D. Japanese organic alcohol beverages covered under Paragraphs A – C above and imported into the United States:
1. Are labeled according to USDA NOP labeling requirements as described in the USDA NOP regulations;
 2. May display the USDA organic seal or the JAS organic seal, or both, except, that the product may not be represented or labeled as “organic” or display the USDA organic seal or the JAS organic seal if only eligible to be sold, labeled, and represented as “made with organic grapes” in the United States; and
 3. Are accompanied by a NOP Import Certificate issued by a MAFF or MOF-accredited certification body through the USDA’s Organic Integrity Database (OID) that attests to compliance with the terms of this Appendix.
- E. MAFF and NTA intend to notify USDA and USTR in a timely manner in writing of any instances of the following:
1. Changes with respect to the accreditation status of MAFF or MOF-accredited certification bodies;
 2. Issuances of regulations or guidelines, either proposed or final, in Japan that may affect this Appendix; and
 3. Notifications of non-compliances that may affect the organic status of Japanese alcohol beverages covered under Paragraphs A - C above.
- F. Following advance written notice from USDA, MAFF and NTA intend to permit USDA officials to conduct on-site evaluations in Japan to verify that the relevant regulatory authorities and certification bodies of the Japanese organic standards for alcohol are carrying out the requirements of those standards. MAFF and NTA intend to cooperate with and assist USDA, to the extent permitted, in carrying out these on-site evaluations, which may include visits to offices of relevant regulatory authorities, certification body offices, production facilities, and farms that MAFF or MOF-accredited certification bodies have certified in Japan. MAFF and NTA intend to provide a written response in a timely fashion to findings identified by USDA in any report of an on-site evaluation that USDA submits to MAFF and NTA, including any findings that may affect this Appendix.

G. MAFF intends to provide USDA AMS the following documents by March 31 of each calendar year:

1. A report that contains information regarding the types and quantities of Japanese alcohol beverages exported under this Appendix during the prior calendar year;
2. A report that contains the types of non-compliances identified by MAFF during any oversight reviews or audits, and steps taken by MAFF to ensure that non-compliances were corrected; and
3. A list of certification bodies accredited and supervised by MAFF or MOF within the scope of the Japanese organic standards.