



Importing Organic Products from 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 U.S. market, products certified to the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) must either be grown or produced in Japan, or have had their final processing or packaging (including final labeling) in Japan.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic products produced or processed in Japan will continue to enjoy access to the U.S. market. This partnership streamlines the export certificate process, which also reduces the paperwork burden for farmers and businesses.

JAS certified organic products

The following products are eligible for organic certification to the JAS:

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

In addition to JAS certification, all products exported from Japan to the U.S. under the organic trade arrangement must meet the following requirements:

1. Products must be either produced or have had final processing or packaging occur within Japan.
2. Organic products must be labeled according to the USDA organic labeling requirements.
3. Products must travel with a USDA National Organic Program (NOP) import certificate that has been completed by a certifying body in Japan which is either recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MAFF) or accredited by the USDA. The import certificate at <http://1.usa.gov/nop-import-certificate> may be used starting January 1, 2014.

USDA certified organic products produced or processed in Japan

Japanese organic agricultural products certified to the USDA organic regulations may continue to access the U.S. market. These products, which may include meat, dairy products, or alcoholic beverages, are certified by USDA-accredited certifying agents. These products do not require an NOP import certificate.

For more information on USDA organic certification, visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPFAQsHowCertified>.

Labeling

USDA seal

An overview of the four retail labeling categories recognized by the USDA organic regulations is provided below. All traded retail products' labels or stickers must state, "Certified Organic By (insert name of Japan-recognized or USDA-accredited body) below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product.

Organic products. Products certified as "organic" in Japan and meet the additional requirements listed above may be sold as "organic" in the U.S. Products may include the JAS organic seal and/or the USDA organic seal.

100% organic products. Products certified as "organic" in Japan, meet the additional requirements listed above, and contain 100 percent organic ingredients and processing aids may be sold as "100 percent organic" in the U.S. Products may include the JAS organic seal and/or the USDA organic seal.

"Made with" organic products. USDA organic products that contain 70 – 95 percent organic ingredients may include the statement, "made with (insert specified organic ingredient or food category)" on the principle display panel. For example, a bag of tortilla chips that contains at least 70 percent organic corn, non-organic canola oil, and salt may be labeled "made with organic corn." These products may not be labeled with the USDA or JAS organic seal.

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

For more information on each of the labeling categories, please review the labeling section of the USDA organic regulations: <http://bit.ly/usda-organic-labeling>.

JAS seal

JAS-certified products sold as organic in the U.S. market may carry the JAS organic seal.

Organic Seals



USDA Organic Seal (U.S.)



JAS Organic Seal (Japan)

When using the JAS Organic Seal to export JAS-certified organic products to the U.S. under this arrangement, operations should replace "Name of RCB" with the name of their organic certifier.