

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES  
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES  
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN



CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION  
HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS  
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

# **Handbook for Fishery Products and Prepared Products imports regulation 2009**

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# Fish products and relevant regulations

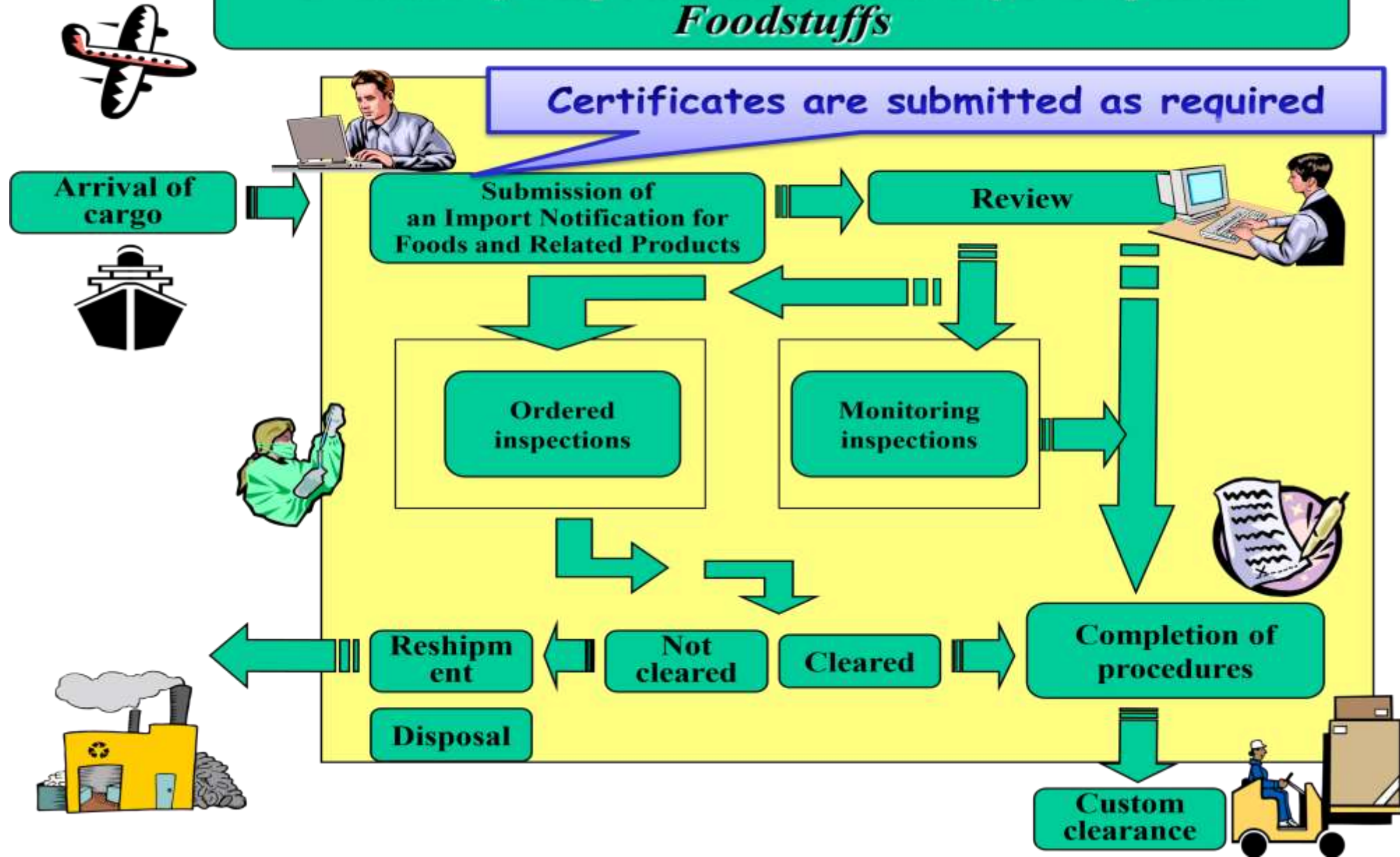
Harmonized System Numbers	Items	Main Relevant Regulations
0301	live fish	Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources Food Sanitation Act Quarantine Act *JAS Law
0302 0303 0304	fish (fresh or chilled, except fillet) fish (frozen, except fillet) fish fillets	Food Sanitation Act Quarantine Act Japan Agricultural Standards Law (JAS)
0305	fish (dried, salted, or smoked) or fish flours and meals	Food Sanitation Act JAS Law
0306 0307	crustaceans (live, fresh, frozen, dried, or salted) molluscs(live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted, or smoked)	Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources Food Sanitation Act Quarantine Act JAS Law
1603	extracts and juices of fish, crustaceans and molluscs prepared fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish egg prepared crustaceans and molluscs	Food Sanitation Act JAS Law

# Import requirements

- Import Clearance Procedures under the Customs Law and the Customs Tariff Law
  - At the import clearance, the "**export declaration**" with all necessary documents attached including invoice, B/L (Bill of Lading), and insurance statement, shall be submitted customs.
  - After examination, inspection, and payment of taxes at customs, the import permit shall be issued.
- **Import Clearance Procedures under the Law on Temporary Measures concerning Customs**
  - When importing from preferential beneficiary countries (including special preferential beneficiary countries), the preferential tariff can be applied. Refer to customs for confirmation.
  - An importer intending to receive the preferential tariff needs to obtain the certificate of preferential origin which is issued from the origin country at the time of export. (No need to obtain it in case the total import amount is 200,000 JPY or less.)

**B/L is a document issued by a carrier, or its agent, to the shipper as a contract of carriage of goods. It is also a receipt for cargo accepted for transportation, and must be presented for taking delivery at the destination**

# Process of Inspection Procedures for Imported Foodstuffs



# Food hazards and required attestation

Country	Food	Hazard	Attestation
Canada	Lobster	PSP	Appropriate management of lobster production
China	Cultured Eel	Oxolinic Acid	Examination result for the substance (hazard)
Korea	Cultured Flatfish	Oxytetracycline Enrofloxacin	Examination result for the substances (hazard)
Korea	Bivalve Shellfish	PSP & DSP	Place of the harvest of the shellfish
Thailand	Cultured Prawn	Oxolinic Acid	Disuse of veterinary drug

# Fishery Resources and Invasive Alien Species Laws

- **Protection of Fishery Resources Law**

- The law is to ensure the protection and culture of fishery resources, to maintain those advantages for the future, and thereby to contribute to the development of fishery.
- The revision of this law in October, 2007, an importer of such fishery animals as carp, rainbow trout, giant tiger prawn, etc., which falls under the **Fisheries Protection Import System**, is required to obtain an import permit. Refer to the homepage of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for information on the Fisheries Protection Import System

- **Invasive Alien Species Law**

- The law **is to restrict** breeding, cultivating, keeping, transporting, importing, etc. of foreign species. By taking necessary measures, such as the control of the foreign species by the government, this law protects the ecosystem from potential damages caused by specified foreign species, preserve the biodiversity, and aims to protect people's lives and bodies and also promote the healthy development of the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries.
- "**Specified foreign species**" are species that came from overseas to our country, and that are living outside the original or appropriate habitat. For marine products are specified foreign species and are **prohibited** under this law **from being imported**. Refer to the homepage of the Ministry of the Environment for the list of specified foreign species.

# Import Quota System

- Total importable volume in **limited period** is regulated for some fisheries products.
- In order to import, required documents such as “Import application” have to be submitted to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- As of December 2009 IQ items of fisheries products are as follows.
  - 1) Pacific erring,
  - 2) dried seaweed,
  - 3) flavoring seaweed,
  - 4) prepared seaweed products (except non-sugar flavoring seaweed),
  - 5) cuttlefish and squid,
  - 6) cod roe,
  - 7) dried cuttlefish,
  - 8) prepared sea tangle,
  - 9) mackerel,
  - 10) sardine,
  - 11) herring (except pacific herring),
  - 12) dried green laver and monostroma nitidum,
  - 13) horse mackerel,
  - 14) sea tangle
  - 15) Korean sea products (horse mackerel, mackerel, sardine, cod, scallop, yellowtail, saury, adductors of shellfish, dried small sardines) 16) codfish, 17) walleye Pollack, 18) scallop, 19) yellowtail, saury, adductors of shellfish, dried small sardines are Import Quota (IQ) items.

- **Quarantine under the Quarantine Act**
    - No prohibited area is designated for the import of marine products.
    - However, marine products from areas contaminated by cholera or from suspected areas shall be subject to inspection under the Quarantine Act.
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- **Fish designated by Washington Convention**

- Fish classified in Appendix I:
  - Endangered species of flora and fauna. Generally, no commercial trade is permitted.
  - Eight species, including coelacanths, etc.
- Animals classified in Appendix II:

- **Fish designated by Washington Convention**

- Flora and fauna endangered unless international trade is severely restricted. Commercial trade is possible. An export license issued by the controlling agency of the exporting country with the consent of scientific authorities is required.
- Six species of sturgeons, etc.
- Animals classified:
  - An export license from the exporting country is required. (Import of the specific species from the specific country) In addition, a certificate of origin is required.
  - When importing species included in Appendices II and III from designated countries, an export license from such countries or a certificate of origin from other countries shall be submitted to the customs house. Moreover, Advance Confirmation of METI is required.
- (Note) See web site of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for animals designated by Washington Convention.



# Regulation on Additives

- Fresh fish including tuna, yellowtail, etc., may not have carbon dioxide added under the Food Sanitation Act.
  - Cultivated marine products are sometimes allowed to contain antibiotic or antimicrobial substances used to increase production, which use shall be confirmed as meeting the specification standard in Japan. For instance, **only 0.10ppm of the antibiotic oxytetracycline is allowed to remain.**
  - Among marine products, globefish must have an attached **health certificate** issued by the government agency of the exporting country, which must include the species and area of collection as part of the import notification.
  - If after examination it is found that an inspection is necessary, an inspector will conduct an onsite inspection. On the successful completion of inspection, the food import notification will be stamped **"Passed"**; if rejected, the importers will be instructed to take measures to either **destroy or reship.**

# Regulation on Additives

- The specification for frozen foods shall be applied for frozen fillets of fish and stripped shellfish for **sashimi**, which stipulates the number of **bacillus per specimen of 1 gram as 100,000** or less and colon bacillus as negative.
- Processed marine products frozen after heat processing (frozen foods processed after heating) shall have **3,000,000 or fewer bacilli per 1(one) gram of specimen and Escherichia-Coli (E-coli )** must be negative.
- Other dried, salted, processed marine products must comply with additive standards, including preservation materials, etc

# Inspection Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act and Allergy Labeling under Food Sanitation Act

- Inspection Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act

- Importers are required to submit **two copies of the import notification** to the Food Sanitation Inspections division of the Quarantine Station for the import site under the Food Sanitation Act.
- If no problem is found after the examination and inspection at the quarantine station, the notification will be stamped "**Passed**" and **a copy will be returned** to the importer.

- **Allergy Labeling under Food Sanitation Act**

- Labeling of foods containing allergenic substances such as abalone, cattle fish, salmon roe, shrimp and prawn, crab, salmon and mackerel as raw materials are recommended **to display**. Refer to Appendix 8. "Food Sanitation Act" for details and label samples.

# JAS System

- **Quality Labeling**

- The names of foods and country of origin for fresh fish and the names of foods, raw materials, content quantity, manufacturer, open date, and preservation method for processed marine products shall be contained on the label.

- **Affixation of JAS mark**

- A JAS mark may be affixed by applying to the JAS registered certification organizations after the customs clearance for marine products including fish, meat, hams, sausages, etc.
- Using a JAS mark is at the discretion of the manufacturer (importer) and not mandatory. Processed marine products include specially packaged boiled fish pastes, processed sea urchin, flavor seasonings, mixed and dressed sea urchin, Kezuribushi (shavings of dried bonito), fish ham and sausage, kamaboko (flavored boiled fish paste), dried small sardines, etc.

# Element Standards of Marine Products (abstract) under the Food Sanitation Act

Items	Standards
Fish cake	Coliform group: Negative (excluding fish cake) (B.G.L.B culture medium method in 1gx 3) Potassium nitrate: 0.050g/kg or less (However, fish sausage and fish ham)
Salmon roe, Salted salmon roe Cod roe	Potassium nitrate:0. 050g/kg or less
Frozen boiled octopus	Bacterial count: 100,000/g or less (standard surface plate method) Coliform group: Negative (desokishicorrat culture medium method in 0.01gx2)
Oyster for eating raw	Bacterial count: 50,000/g or less (standard surface plate method) Most probable number of E.Coli: 230/100g or less (EC culture medium method)
Frozen seafood for eating raw	Bacterial count: 100,000/g or less (standard surface plate method) Coliform group: Negative (desokishicorrat culture medium method in 0.01gx2)

- **Authorities concerned**
- [Quarantine Act](#)
  - Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Control Division, Health Service Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare  
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/index.html>
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES)
- [\(Washington Convention\)](#)
- Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
  - (Processed products)
  - Trade Licensing Division
  - (Non processed products regardless alive or dead)
  - Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade Licensing Division  
<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>

- [Food Sanitation Act](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/index.html) Policy Planning and Communication Division, Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/index.html>
- Japanese Agricultural Standard
- Labeling and Standards Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/jas/index.html>
- Japanese Agricultural Standard Association <http://www.jasnet.or.jp/> (Japanese only)
- Japan Frozen Food Inspection Corporation <http://www.jffic.or.jp/english/>
- Customs Law / Customs Tariff Law / Temporary Tariff Measures Law Japan Customs
- <http://www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm>
  
- [Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources](#)
  - Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>
  - Recreational Fishing and Coastal Waters Activities Coordination Office, Fisheries Coordination Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency <http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/> (Japanese only)
  - [Invasive Alien Species Act](#)
  - Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment <http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html>

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