

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 4/12/2011

GAIN Report Number: NL1007

Netherlands

Post: The Hague

Agricultural Import Restrictions with Japan

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Incident Report

Approved By:

Paul Spencer

Prepared By:

Marcel Pinckaers

Report Highlights:

In response to radioactivity leaks in Japan, the European Commission requires EU Member States to take addition measures on food and feed imports from Japan. This report summarizes Dutch implementation of EU Regulation No 297/2011.

General Information:

Earthquake in Japan

Due to the earthquake in Japan and subsequent concerns about radioactivity released from nuclear power stations, the European Commission requires EU Member States to check food (animal and non animal origin) and (ingredients for) feed imports from Japan. The EU requirements are laid out in Commission Regulation (EU) [No 297/2011](#). Dutch imports from Japan are minor (about \$58 million in 2009), less than one percent of total food and feed imports.

What is the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (nVWA) doing to ensure the safety of products imported from Japan?

In response to the situation in Japan, the nVWA is coordinating the Dutch's governmental controls on imported Japanese goods. In the first week following the accidents, emergency measures began.

At Amsterdam/Schiphol Airport all incoming flights from Japan remain under heightened scrutiny:

- Planes arriving from Japan are checked by Dutch Customs and nVWA for possible radiological contamination (especially the combination of radio nuclides typically expected following a nuclear accident).
- All cargo (not only food and feed) is unloaded and inspected before leaving the airport.
- All food and feed products arriving from Japan are detained and tested.

As of Monday March 14th, only a few consignments have arrived from Japan. Test results have been below the maximum allowable radiation level.

Ocean vessels take several weeks to arrive from Asia and the first vessel coming from a Japanese port is expected to arrive in Rotterdam in the week of April 11th. Preparations for additional seaport inspection are ongoing.

The plan for controls on goods coming from Japan arriving at seaports is as follows:

- Selection of vessels coming from a Japanese port: when one of the ports during the last 6 or 7 stops was a Japanese port, a vessel is selected for inspection. When there has not been a 'safe check' in one of the other ports visited, the vessel will be asked to clean the deck before allowing the pilot on board the vessel. Cleaning needs to be documented by the vessel.
- Before the vessel starts unloading, stevedores will order testing to determine if there is radiological contamination.
- All containers have to pass nuclear detection gates. When a level of Iodine or Cesium is detected above limits, the container is blocked and stacked at the terminal.
- (R297/2011) Specific prior notification needs to be done (through a CED/CVED or a similar notification) for products under R 297/2011 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:080:0005:0008:EN:PDF>)
- All consignments of products covered under R297/2011 will be inspected.

In addition:

- Consignments leaving Japan after March 27th (and products produced after the March 10th) need to be accompanied by a specific declaration, the format of which is included as an addendum to R297/2011.

Based upon that information samples are to be taken.

- For consignments leaving a Japanese port after March 11 but before March 28, evidence needs to be shown about the origin (prefecture) of the product. Based upon that information, samples are to be taken (Fukushima prefecture 100%, others 20%).

For more information:

-Uitvoeringsverordening (EU) nr 297/2011 (Implementing Regulation (EU) No 297/2011)

-The new Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (nVWA)

P.O. Box 19506

2500 CM The Hague, the Netherlands

Phone: +31-(0)70-4484848

Fax: +31-(0)70-4484747

www.vwa.nl

info@vwa.nl