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## **Korea - Republic of**

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### **Korea's Import Measures for Japanese Products**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the Economy

Agriculture in the News

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On March 25 2011, the National Policy Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister decided on a temporary import ban on food products originating from radiation contaminated regions in Japan. Items subject to the import ban include leafy vegetables (e.g. spinach, lettuce, cabbage) and flower head brassicas (e.g. broccoli and cauliflower) from Fukushima, spinach and kakina from Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma, raw milk and turnip from Fukushima and raw milk and parsley from Ibaraki. All food items including agricultural produce, processed food, dairy products, health functional food, food additives, and fisheries imported from Japan are subject to 100% testing upon arrival.

**General Information:**

On March 25 2011, the National Policy Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister decided on a temporary import ban on food products originating from radiation contaminated regions in Japan. Consequently, the Prime Minister Office (PMO) published a press release, which replaced the policy issued on March 23, which had called for a thorough testing of food products imported from Japan.

**Measures taken by Korea as of March 25**

- Effective March 25, Korea has imposed a temporary import ban on food products that the Japanese government is not permitting to be released into the market or products that the Japanese government is calling for a limited intake by consumers. This provisional measure will remain in effect until the current radioactivity concern is cleared.
- Items subject to the import ban include leafy vegetables (e.g. spinach, lettuce, cabbage) and flower head brassicas (e.g. broccoli and cauliflower) from Fukushima, spinach and kakina from Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma, raw milk and turnip from Fukushima and raw milk and parsley from Ibaraki.
- Korea plans to immediately ban any additional food items that may be restricted from marketing by the Japanese government.
- All food items including agricultural produce, processed food, dairy products, health functional food, food additives, and fisheries imported from Japan are subject to 100% testing upon arrival.
- Testing of agricultural produce, processed food products, health functional food, and food additives is done by the Korea Food & Drug Administration. Tests of dairy products and fishery products are done by the National Veterinary Research & Quarantine Service and the National Fisheries Products Quality Inspection Service (NFIS), which are under the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- Korea is currently testing for Iodine and Cesium.
- Food products that are accompanied with a certificate confirming that they are free from radiation contamination are exempt from arrival testing.

**Korea imports**

- In 2010, Korea's customs cleared 46,350 import applications for agriculture/forestry products, processed food products, food additives, health functional food, and food packages from Japan worth approximately \$514 million.

- Out of the total number of import applications, Japan accounts for 15.8 percent of imports. Agricultural/forestry products from Japan accounts for 0.1 percent of total import applications. Processed food products, food additives, and health functional food from Japan accounts for 15 percent, 37 percent, and 9.5 percent of total import applications respectively.
- Major imported items were sake, snacks, sauces, candies, health supplements, mixed food additives, flavors, and food packages.
- In 2010, there were 15,794 import applications for fishery products worth \$248 million. Major items included Alaska Pollack, hair tail fish, crabs, frozen mackerel, tuna, and shell fish. Imports from Japan accounts for 18 percent of Korea's total import application for fish.

### **Import from Japan in 2010**

<b>Products from Japan</b>	<b>Number of Import Application No.</b>	<b>Volume (MT)</b>	<b>Value (1,000\$)</b>
Ag/Forestry	40	137	524
Processed food	23,145	40,372	260,213
Food Additives	12,304	11,925	153,754
Health functional food	623	413	23,630
Food container/packages	10,238	7,513	76,080
Fisheries*	15,794	76,947	248,969
Livestock (mostly dairy)	149	527	2,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,293</b>	<b>137,834</b>	<b>765,298</b>

Source: PMO, KFDA, and MIFAFF, NFIS database\*

### **Import from Japan between March 14 and March 23, 2011**

	<b>Ag/forestry</b>	<b>Processed food</b>	<b>Health functional food</b>	<b>Food additives</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Dairy</b>	<b>Total</b>
# of import application	1	759	22	377	25	7	1,191
Import from four prefectures	0	24	0	1	1	0	26