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POLICY

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**Date:** 12/28/2010

**GAIN Report Number:**

## **Japan**

**Post:** Tokyo ATO

### **Parcel Companies Refuse to Handle Packages Requiring SPS Certificate**

**Report Categories:**

FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

DHL, UPS and FedEx have all begun enforcing a policy of not accepting packages that require phytosanitary certificates which may affect U.S. exporters' ability to ship samples to Japan.

## General Information:

### Packaging and Container Regulations:

FAS and APHIS Tokyo have discovered that the last of the three major overnight shippers, Fedex, has decided not to handle any items involving animal or plant quarantine items (including dried fruit and nuts) *for express/overnight service*. Fed Ex adopted this decision in 2007, but only began enforcing it in December 2010. DHL implemented its policy in 2008, and UPS implemented a similar policy on October 1, 2010. FAS/APHIS Tokyo understands that the reason the companies instituted this policy is that one parcel containing items subject to quarantine regulations can delay a whole container containing hundreds of parcels for about two hours until the package with the phytosanitary certificate is cleared. The carriers have decided that they cannot afford the delay *in their express service* when they must deliver parcels by a certain time. It is also our understanding that the carrier's policies only affect **express/overnight** shipments. *They still accept packages that require phytosanitary certificate as regular air freight services that may take an extra few days to be delivered.*

We have confirmed with all relevant Japanese agencies (MAFF, MHLW, Customs) that there has been NO changes in regulations affecting imports of food samples. As such, this policy is clearly a private business decision.

Please find the attached FedEx company notification (in Japanese) explaining the company's policy of not handling any items that involve animal and plant quarantine items, including dried fruit and nuts.

<http://www.fedex.co.jp/info/2007/20.html>

There are some Japanese based parcel services that will still handle packages that require a phytosanitary certificate.

Yusen-Logistics: <http://www.na.nyklogistics.com/nykhome/?pid=15>

International Express Co. Ltd: <http://www.iecjp.com/network/b.html#los>

Yamato Transport Co., Ltd: <http://www.yamatoamerica.com/cr/network/index.html>

Nippon Express: <http://www.nipponexpress.com/global-network/america/index.html#a04>

In addition, the U.S. Postal Service, which has a cooperative agreement with the Japan Post Express Mail Service, will still accept these packages. Please check with your local post office for further details.

Regardless of which parcel company shippers decide to use, FAS Tokyo recommends that shippers double check before sending samples to Japan regarding the ability to send packages that require a phytosanitary certificate.

