



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0201 – Room 3071-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

MAY 19 2008

Yutaka Arai, Director
Labeling and Standards Division
Food safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki chiyoda-ku Tokyo
100+8950 Tokyo
JAPAN

Dear Ms. Arai:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is pleased to inform you that the conformity assessment system used by the Labeling and Standards Division (LSD), Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), to accredit organic certification organizations has been determined by USDA, AMS to be sufficient to ensure conformity with the technical standards of USDA's National Organic Program (NOP), pending successful completion of an on-site visit. In the interim and upon effective date of this letter, this determination allows the application of the USDA organic seal on Japanese agricultural products when all applicable NOP regulations have been met. The Continuation of Recognition is subject to terms below.

To ensure conformity with the technical standards of the NOP, USDA requests MAFF through LSD to agree to the following provisions:

1. To notify AMS of any legislative or administrative changes to the LSD, MAFF conformity assessment system;
2. To allow USDA representatives to conduct on-site audits and reviews of the LSD, MAFF conformity assessment system when properly notified of such reviews by USDA;
3. To immediately report to AMS any non-compliance regarding the application of the NOP regulations to Japanese organic agricultural products when exported to the United States;
4. To provide to USDA annually a report which contains information regarding the types and quantities of Japanese organic agricultural products exported under this determination.

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5. To provide to USDA annually a report which contains the types of non-compliances found by LSD during any oversight reviews or audits, and steps taken by LSD to ensure that non-compliances were corrected.
6. To provide to USDA annually a list of all certifying bodies accredited by LSD, MAFF to perform NOP certifications and their respective operations granted certification to produce products to the NOP standards.

Should you have further questions regarding this determination, I encourage you to contact Mark Bradley at 202-720-3252 or by email at mark.bradley@usda.gov or Barbara C. Robinson at Barbara.robinson2@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Lloyd C. Day
Administrator