

Notification on the Change of Phytosanitary Measures for Plants without Phytosanitary Certificate

Whereas Article 6 of the Japanese Plant Protection Act¹ (Act No. 151 of 1950) prohibits the import of any plant which is not accompanied by Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of exporting country, Japan has exceptionally been accepting the importation of plants without PC if they were commercial samples or gifts; and imported by mail or hand-carry, and subject to conducting thorough examination.

Considering the recent reports that some serious quarantine pests have entered into the Japanese territory such as White Potato Cyst Nematode (*Globodera pallida*) and Plum Pox Virus, Japanese NPPO has decided to stop the above mentioned exception in order to reduce the entry risks of such pests. Japan would request NPPO of member countries to inform those who has an intention to export plants to Japan by mail or hand-carry that it is necessary to attach PC to them without any exceptions.

Excerpts of Japanese legislation on Plant Protection

• The Article 6 of the Plant Protection Act:

<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?printID=&id=25&re=02&vm=02>

Article 6 Imported plants (excluding plants that are not used for cultivation and provided for in the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as those with little possibility of Quarantine Pests being attached: hereinafter the same shall apply in this paragraph and the following paragraph) and their containers or packages shall not be imported, except for those to which a phytosanitary certificate, or its copy, issued by a governmental organization of the exporting country is attached, which states to the effect that it is confirmed or believed that a Quarantine Pest is not attached to them as a result of inspection by such organization; however, this shall not apply to the following plants and their containers or packages:

- (i) Plants and their containers or packages that are imported from countries having no governmental organizations for plant quarantine, for which particularly careful inspection is carried out pursuant to the provision of this Chapter;
- (ii) Plants and their containers or packages that are imported from countries provided for in the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, for which matters to be stated in the phytosanitary certificate or its copy are transmitted from the governmental organization of such countries to an electronic computer used by the plant protection station (including input and output devices) by way of a telecommunications line and are recorded in a file stored in such electronic computer.

• The Article 5.3 of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act (Provisional translation):

(Plants to which no phytosanitary certificate is required to be attached)

Article 5-3 Plants not used for cultivation under Article 6 (Limitation on Import), Paragraph 1 of the Act and designated by the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as least liable to be infested with quarantine pests are as follows:

1. Dried plants of turmeric and the genera *Eucommia*;
2. Dried seeds of almond, cashew, coconut, pepper, pistachio, Persian walnut and macadamia nut.

• **The Article 6 of import Plant Quarantine Regulation (Provisional translation):**

(Plants not subject to quarantine)

Article 6 The articles listed in each of the following items shall not fall under the plants specified in Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Act;

1. Processed goods such as lumber, antiseptic log, wood work, bamboo work and furniture, etc.
2. Wood Packaging material (in case of the wood packaging material, including pallets, dunnage, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases, load boards, pallet collars, skids, etc. which is made of raw wood without processing or treatment, this Article shall apply only to those treated in producing country in accordance with the provision of Annex 1 of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 15 adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures established on the basis of International Plant Protection Convention and provided with the mark in accordance with Annex 2 of the international standard.)
3. Rattan and cork
4. Fibrous goods such as gunny bag, cotton, cotton cloth, loofah products, paper, string, rope, etc. and coarse fiber (including raw cotton) not ever used as packing materials for any plant or plant products.
5. Processed tea leaves, dried hop flowers and dried bamboo shoot.
6. Fermented vanilla beans.
7. Plants immersed in sulfurous acid, alcohol, acetic acid, sugar, salt, etc.
8. Dried fruit of common apricot, fig, persimmon, Kiwi fruit, plum, pear, jujube, date palm, pine apple, banana, papaya, grape, mango, peach and longan.
9. Desiccated endocarp of coconut.
10. Dried spices packed in sealed containers for retail.