NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: JAPAN

2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 7.3.2, 7.4.1, Other:

4. Products covered (CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Beverage, foodstuffs, fats and oils and forestry products etc.

5. Title: Amendment to the Law Concerning Standardization and Proper Labelling of Agricultural and Forestry Products (JAS Law)

6. Description of content: Approval system related to foreign manufacturer
   (1) Approval by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the grading organization:
      Should an organization of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, or a Registered Grading Organization deem it necessary for the smooth implementation of the grading, the foreign manufacturer (for the purpose of this Section, the foreign manufacturer is the person who manufactures or processes in foreign countries the agricultural and forestry products to be exported to Japan) of the product shall carry out the sampling and place the grading indication on the product with the prior approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, provided that the judgement of whether the said product meets the Japanese Agricultural Standard and other related work is done by the organization of the Ministry or the Registered Grading Organization.
   (2) Permission to Foreign Manufacturer:
      A foreign manufacturer of a product qualified for a grading indication shall be permitted to indicate said grading mark on the product as necessary prior to the grading when permitted to do so by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

7. Objective and rationale: To ensure in terms of legal systems that there be no discrimination between nationals and non-nationals in certification procedures.

8. Relevant documents: Basic document is the Law Concerning Standardization and Proper Labelling of Agricultural and Forestry Products.

9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: Not yet determined

10. Final date for comments:
    The purpose of this amendment is to proceed further with the opening of the Japanese market by ensuring in terms of legal systems that there be no discrimination between nationals and non-nationals in certification procedures, in the light of the views and requests presented by Japan's trading partners.
    Given the urgent nature of this legislation, it has been decided by the Cabinet to present the legislation promptly to the current session of the Diet. Such being the case, there will be no comment period for this legislation.

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point or address of other body:

83-0920