

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 8/7/2018

GAIN Report Number: JA8046

Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan Revising Domestic Pesticide Registration System

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

Jess K. Paulson

Prepared By:

Suguru Sato

Report Highlights:

On August 1, 2018, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) notified G/SPS/N/JPN/593 and G/TBT/N/JPN/605 to the World Trade Organization (WTO) informing trade partners that it will revise the pesticide re-registration system to a re-evaluation system. Comments to these notifications are due September 30, 2018.

Keyword: JA8046

General Information:

On August 1, 2018, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) notified G/SPS/N/JPN/593 and G/TBT/N/JPN/605 to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The notifications inform trade partners of changes MAFF will make to its registration system for domestic use of pesticides. Under the current system, established in 1948, MAFF requires that registrants renew the registration of their pesticides every three years. However, this process has not included a scientific review of new findings related to that product.

MAFF will revise the current system to a re-evaluation system, in which each registered pesticide will undergo a risk assessment every 15 years that evaluates new data since its last registration. MAFF will inform registrants of re-evaluation 2 years in advance. MAFF intends to implement this new system in Japan fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) 2021. Due to the number of registered pesticides, MAFF intends to re-evaluate 40 pesticides each year.

Pesticides registered prior to 2014 were not required to submit acute reference dose (ARfD) data. Registrants will be required to provide this data when renewing the registration for domestic use.

MAFF will require that registrants submit an annual report that describes new information related to the pesticide, such as changes to its registration in other countries, scientific papers related to the pesticide's safe use, or information about incidents or accidents.

The new system will also simplify or expedite the application process for generic substances.

MAFF will notify additional regulations for entry into force in 2020, including the evaluation of risk to those who handle pesticides, as well as requiring the data evaluation of target terrestrial plants and animals in addition to the current evaluation of aquatic plants and animal.

Attached are two related documents:

1. Summary of the Revision of the Pesticide Registration System
2. New Pesticide Regulations in Japan