



AVA eases restrictions on import of food from Japan

Issued on 31 May 2014

As announced by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during a joint press conference with Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) is easing restrictions on food imports from Japan, including Fukushima prefecture with immediate effect. AVA and the Japanese authorities will be working on the implementation details. The announcement comes after AVA's review and on-site assessment, as well as satisfactory surveillance results from Japan and AVA.

2 AVA has been monitoring food imports from Japan closely since the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant incident in 2011, and our surveillance results have been satisfactory. Japan's surveillance results have also shown that radioactive contamination in food is very low. This is supported by AVA's on-site assessment early this year to verify and understand Japan's food safety measures.

Easing of restrictions

3 With this easing of restrictions, fruits and vegetables, milk/milk products, meat, hen eggs and green tea/green tea products from 8 prefectures (Chiba, Ibaraki, Gunma, Kanagawa, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi and Tokyo) can be imported into Singapore without the need for pre-export tests.

4 In addition, the suspension of agricultural produce and processed food products (fruits and vegetables, milk/milk products, meat, green tea and green tea products, and rice) from Fukushima will be lifted.

5 However, the Japanese authorities need to show evidence of satisfactory surveillance results for radioactive contamination in these prefectures.

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Remaining Restrictions

6 Import restrictions that remain in place are:

- a) Seafood and products from the forest¹ from the prefectures of Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma will still require pre-export tests;
- b) Seafood and products from the forest as well as agricultural produce from demarcated areas and the control zone² (close to the nuclear power plant) in Fukushima prefecture are not allowed to be imported.

7 All food products from Japan still require a Certificate of Origin (COO) to identify the prefecture of origin of the food product.

Food from Japan is safe for consumption

8 AVA will continue to closely monitor food imports from Japan to ensure that they comply with our food safety requirements.

9 We would like to assure the public that food imported from Japan that is available in the market is safe for consumption.

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¹ Products from the forest refer to products that are gathered or harvested from the forest such as wild berries, wild mushrooms, wild boar meat etc.

² Demarcated areas refer to areas in Fukushima prefecture where radioactive contamination is high and agriculture has been prohibited. The controlled zone refers to a zone of 20 km radius around Fukushima NPP where residents have been evacuated.

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