



AVA LIFTS SUSPENSION ON IMPORT OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM EHIME PREFECTURE

Since the start of the incident at Fukushima Nuclear Plant, AVA has increased its surveillance of food imports from Japan to include testing for radioactive contaminants to ensure that they are safe for consumption. AVA had suspended the import of fruits and vegetables from those Japanese Prefectures where samples of radioactive contaminated vegetables had originated from.

2. The suspension on Ehime Prefecture was imposed on 24 Mar 2011 after AVA detected radioactive contaminants from a sample of Perilla Leaf that was listed as imported from Ehime by the Japanese exporter. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan carried out investigations and had since ascertained that the Perilla Leaf sample was from Fukushima Prefecture. According to MAFF, the Japanese exporter of the contaminated Perilla Leaf sample had wrongly listed its origin to be Ehime Prefecture.

3. In addition, the MAFF and the Ehime Prefectural Authority announced that other Perilla Leaf sampled from Ehime Prefecture had been tested and no radioactive contaminants were detected. In view of these developments, AVA is lifting the suspension of fruits and vegetables from Ehime Prefecture with immediate effect.

4. AVA is working with the Japanese Authorities on a Certificate of Origin to accompany products shipped to Singapore to avoid such irregularities in future.

Food from Japan safe for consumption

5. Food imported from Japan that is available in the market is safe for consumption. There is no cause for concern for consumers. AVA will continue to work closely with the Japanese authorities to monitor the situation. All consignments of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products imported from Japan are subjected to hold-and-test. The products will only be released for sale when test results show that there is no radioactive contamination. If radioactive contaminants are detected in any sample, the affected shipment will be disposed.

MEDIA RELEASE

6. The public can visit the Japan Earthquake microsite at www.gov.sg/japanquake for latest updates and information from the authorities. They can also refer to AVA's website at www.ava.gov.sg for more details.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Status of Suspension

To date, 742 samples of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products imported from Japan have been tested for radioactive contamination.

The status of our suspension of food imports from Japan as at 14 Apr 2011 is as follows:

Source	Item
Fukushima, Ibaraki*, Tochigi* and Gunma*	Milk, milk products, seafood, meat, fruits and vegetables
Hyogo, Shizuoka, Chiba*, Kanagawa*, Tokyo* and Saitama*	Fruits and vegetables

** Prefectures in the Kanto Region*