

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES WITH MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD SINGAPORE FROM RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

Imports of fruits and vegetables from Shizuoka Prefecture are suspended

The Singapore Government is following the situation at the Fukushima Nuclear Plant very closely. It is continuing its measures to safeguard Singapore from radioactive contamination.

Suspension of import of fruits and vegetables from Shizuoka Prefecture

2 Following the latest detection of radioactive contaminants in a sample of Komatsuna (Japanese Mustard Spinach) imported from the Shizuoka prefecture, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) will extend its suspension of import of fruits and vegetables from Shizuoka with immediate effect.

3 AVA has increased its surveillance of food imports from Japan since the start of the incident at Fukushima Nuclear Plant to ensure that they are safe for consumption. To date, 379 samples of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products imported from Japan have been tested for radioactive contamination.

4 Tests done on shipments imported on 30 Mar 2011 showed that radioactive contaminants were found in the following sample of vegetables:

Item (Source)	Detection levels		
	Iodine-131	Cesium-134	Cesium-137
Komatsuna (Japanese Mustard Spinach) / Shizuoka	648bq/kg	155bq/kg	187bq/kg

5 Since 25 Mar 2011, all consignments of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products have been subjected to hold-and-test. This means that 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 of.

6 As such, food imported from Japan that is available in the market is safe for consumption. There is no cause for concern for consumers.

7 The table at **Annex A** provides the status of the suspension of food imports from Japan as at 31 March.

Screening of Cargo

8 The Immigration and Checkpoint Authority of Singapore (ICA) already has a screening system for all cargoes entering Singapore. This includes radiological screening. Such screening had been conducted even before the recent Japan nuclear incident.

Screening of Passengers, Aircraft and Vessels

9 Current developments do not necessitate the screening of aircraft and vessels from Japan.

10 As reported in a previous joint statement by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), there are also no health reasons to screen passengers from Japan.

11 Nonetheless, the Singapore Government continues to monitor the developments and will take appropriate measures should the need arise.

Radiation Levels in Singapore

12 The National Environment Agency (NEA) is monitoring radiation levels in Singapore on a continuous basis. Radiation levels in Singapore remain normal. Coastal water samples tested also do not show the presence of radioactive iodine and cesium.

13 PUB has also stepped up the daily monitoring of radioactivity level in Singapore's water supplies, including rain water in the catchments. These radioactivity levels remain well within the safety levels stipulated in the World Health Organisation Drinking Water Guidelines. Should any radioactive particles be detected, PUB waterworks are also able to remove them through the treatment process.

Risks of Cross-Contamination

14 NEA advises that there is low risk of cross-contamination from passengers, flight crew, baggage or cargo from Japan.

15 External contamination takes place when radioactive material such as radioactive dust becomes attached to a person or object. This type of contamination can be washed off. As the levels of radioactive contaminants are expected to be low, there is low likelihood for a person or object with external contamination to affect another person through contact.

16 Internal contamination may result from breathing in or swallowing radioactive material or through contamination of wounds. It is highly unlikely for a person with internal contamination to contaminate another person.

MOH health advisory

17 MOH's assessment is that any Singaporean who was outside the evacuation zones do not need any form of medical assessment nor do they need to seek prescriptions for potassium iodide (KI). Transient consumption of produce and animal products at current reported levels of contamination is also unlikely to pose a health hazard.

18 Singaporeans returning from the evacuation zone who feel unwell may wish to seek medical advice at the Emergency Department of their nearby Public Restructured Hospital (RH)¹ upon return to Singapore for medical consultation. Among those who have sought medical advice at the restructured hospitals, none has tested positive for radiation exposure so far.

Information Updates

19 The public can visit the micro-site on www.gov.sg/japanquake for the latest information and updates on the Fukushima situation. This site contains relevant FAQs, joint statements by relevant government agencies, hotline information and other useful links to relevant ministries and agencies. The microsite is also available through the www.gov.sg apps on the iPhone and Android phones, as well as the www.gov.sg mobile site.

Jointly Issued By:

Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts
Ministry of Health
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
Immigration and Checkpoint Authority of Singapore
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
National Environment Agency
Public Utilities Board

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For further media queries:

MOH:

Lim Jing Ting
Manager (Media Relations)
Corporate Communications Division
Ministry of Health DID: 6325 9066, Mobile: 98248020

¹ The Restructured Hospitals are: Singapore General Hospital, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, National University Hospital, Changi General Hospital, and Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. Children and pregnant women are advised to go to KK Women's and Children's Hospital.

NEA:

Koh Su Ching
Assistant Director (Corporate Communications)
Media Handphone: 90887378
DID: 67319901
Email: koh_su_ching@nea.gov.sg

AVA:

Ms Elaine Pong
Deputy Director (Media & Customer Relations)
Or
Ms Sity Norani Rohani
Executive Manager (Media)
Media Line: 8444 7208

MOT:

MOT Media Duty Desk Officer
Email: media_relations@mot.gov.sg
Mobile: 9011 4110

MHA:

Ms Ruth Ong
Assistant Director (Corporate Relations)
Email: ruth_ong@mha.gov.sg
Mobile: 9652 5977

MICA:

Mr Philip Sim
Deputy Director (Public Communications Division)
DID: 6837 9827
Email: philip_sim@mica.gov.sg

For Further Information

For more information on the various areas of concern, please refer to the following sites and hotlines:

- Average daily radiation level in Singapore: NEA's website (www.nea.gov.sg), Twitter (NEAsg) and Facebook accounts (CGSingapore) or NEA Call Centre at Tel: 1800-2255632.
- MFA's travel advisory to Japan: Singaporeans who cannot avoid travelling to Japan at this time should eRegister with the MFA at www.mfa.gov.sg.
- AVA's surveillance of food imports: AVA's website (www.ava.gov.sg). For general enquiries, the public can contact AVA's hotline at Tel: 6325 7625
- Health concerns and radiation exposure matters [Ministry of Health's FAQs \(PDF\)](#) and the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) FAQs on 'Nuclear Concerns in Japan'](#).

- For health-related queries, public can contact the MOH Hotline at Tel: 1800 333 9999
- Monitoring of water supply: PUB at Tel: 1800-2846600

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM AVAUpdates on test results

1 To date, 379 samples of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products have been tested. The latest results of samples collected from shipments imported on 30 Mar 2011 showed that radioactive contaminants were found in the following sample of vegetables:

Item (Source)	Detection levels		
	Iodine-131	Cesium-134	Cesium-137
Komatsuna (Japanese Mustard Spinach) / Shizuoka	648Bq/kg	155Bq/kg	187Bq/kg

* Becquerel (Bq) is a measurement of radioactivity levels. The Codex guidelines for radionuclides in food (other than infant food) for Iodine 131 is 100 Bq/kg, Cesium 134 is 1000 Bq/kg and Cesium 137 is 1000 Bq/kg.

** Test results are provided by the Health Sciences Authority's Applied Sciences Group

Status of suspension of Japan food imports

2 AVA has suspended food imports from prefectures where radioactive contamination of food products has been detected. The status of our suspension of food imports from Japan as at 31 Mar 2011 is as follows:

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

* Prefectures in the Kanto Region

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