

Food Import to Japan

Food import under the Food Sanitation Act

Act

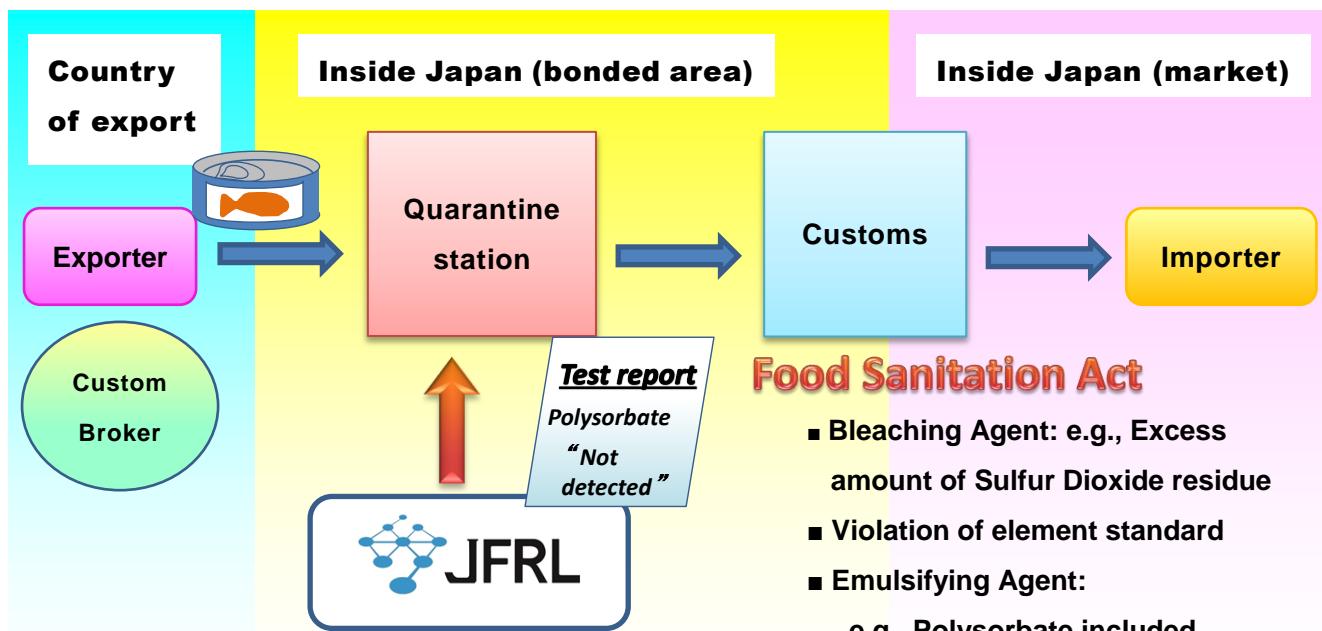
Food import in Japan is under the control of several regulations. The points of those regulations are “to ensure safety for human health,” “to protect plant health and animal health,” “to maintain harmony between domestic industry,” etc. The Food Sanitation Act is the primary law intended “to ensure safety for human health” and covers a wide range of foods and related products, packaging, and even toys for infants.

JFRL, one of the oldest and largest registered laboratories under the Food Sanitation Act, has long experience in performing inspection tests of imported foods and related products.



JFRL in the procedure for foods and related products import

Under the Food Sanitation Act, the importer must be responsible for the products that are to be imported for sale and distribution. Once the cargo arrives in Japan, inspectors at the quarantine station examine and inspect if the foods comply with the Food Sanitation Act according to the “import notification” submitted by the importer.



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In the course of the inspection at the quarantine station, the inspectors order that some of the foods must be tested. As a registered testing laboratory, JFRL performs the testing and submits the results to the quarantine station.

If the foods pass examination and inspection, the quarantine station permits the importer to proceed to customs clearance. On the other hand, if the foods do not pass examination and inspection, they do not permit the importer to proceed to customs clearance.

Reference: [Import Procedure under the Food Sanitation Act](#)

JFRL consultation service



As mentioned above, the Food Sanitation Act is very important when foods and related items are imported into Japan. How will the foods and food items be handled if they are rejected due to not conforming to the Food Sanitation Act? They are disposed, returned to the country of export, or used for non-eating purposes.

It is recommended that the exporter should confirm that their foods and related items comply with the Food Sanitation Act.

Even if they satisfy the regulation in the country of export, they might violate the regulation of the country of import. For minimizing the risks of spoiling or returning of the foods, pre-consulting is highly recommended.

In the actual process of import, importers necessarily consult the quarantine prior to import. However, most of the exporters do not have the means to consult the quarantine by themselves. Therefore, JFRL is pleased to support those international customers. Since JFRL has been performing inspection tests under the Food Sanitation Act for many years, we are very experienced in giving advice on what is required by the Food Sanitation Act.