

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Sweden

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Nordic Implementation of EU Import Restrictions with Japan

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Incident Report

Approved By:

Paul Spencer

Prepared By:

Dahlbacka, Wideback

Report Highlights:

The European Commission has asked EU member states establish additional controls on food products arriving from Japan due to the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Sweden, Finland, Denmark have all implemented the new EU requirements laid down in EU Regulation No 297/2011. Norway, not an EU member, has also taken steps.

General Information:

Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway have all implemented EU Regulation No 297/2011, imposing stricter controls of food imports from Japan due to the nuclear accident in Fukushima. Each consignment of food or feed from Japan must be accompanied by a declaration from the Japanese authorities that the products were harvested or produced before March 11, 2011, or that the products do not originate in the affected areas (Fukushima and nearby areas). If a product originates in the affected areas, it has to be accompanied by a declaration from the Japanese authorities that it does not contain levels of radio nuclides that exceed the EU's maximum permitted levels.

Importers must notify the competent authority two days prior to the arrival of consignments from Japan. The products have to arrive at certain designated point of entries. The competent authorities in the Nordic countries are:

Sweden: The National Food Administration (food), and the Board of Agriculture (feed)

Finland: Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira

Denmark: Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (food), the Danish Plant Directorate (feed)

Norway: Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Imports of food from Japan to the Nordic countries are minor (\$35 million in 2010). The main products imported are fish and fish products, rice, sugar confectionary, vegetables, tea, soups and broth. As of April 13, no imports of radioactive contaminated products into the Nordic region have been reported.

Note: Norway is not and EU member but applies most of EU food legislation. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority reports that Norway has adopted new national legislation implementing EU reg 297/2011.