

Home > News

PRINT E-MAIL

Saturday, April 9, 2011

## Thailand to require 'radiation certificates' be supplied for food from Japan

Compiled from Kyodo, AP

BANGKOK — Thai authorities said Thursday it will beef up inspections of fresh food imported from Japan by requiring "radiation certificates" for produce from 12 prefectures near the crisis-struck Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant.

Public Health Minister Jurin Laksanawisit told reporters the Food and Drug Administration will soon require fresh food importers to certify the safety of vegetables, fruits, meats and marine products originating from or transiting Tokyo and Chiba, Saitama, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Nagano and Yamanashi prefectures.

The FDA has also recommended that the minister set a legal limit for radioactive iodine-131 of 100 becquerels per kg or per liter, and a combined level for radioactive cesium-134 and cesium-137 of 500 becquerels per kg or per liter.

The regulation draft is expected to be swiftly approved and enter into force next week, according to FDA chief Pipat Yingsaree.

The FDA has conducted random checks on food imports from Japan since March 16, after Japanese authorities discovered leafy vegetables and water contaminated by radiation in areas around the Fukushima nuclear complex.

On March 28, it found low-level radioactive iodine in imported sweet potatoes from Ibaraki Prefecture, although the level was only 15.25 becquerels per kg, far below the standard limit of 100 becquerels per kg. But the 75-kg shipment was destroyed in any case as a precautionary measure.

The FDA will continue to conduct random checks on all food from Japan, including on shipments with radiation certificates, according to the Ministry of Public Health.

It will also strengthen inspection measures at all international airports with flights from Japan. Authorities have already seized and destroyed vegetables containing low levels of radioactive iodine and cesium from Japanese travelers.

Meanwhile, India said it has not banned imports of Japanese food and will be fully testing such items for radiation from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant when they arrive, a government official said in New Delhi.

The Commerce Ministry official said Japanese authorities also will be required to certify that food products exported to India are not contaminated.

The official said the decision was made Thursday at a meeting of top Indian officials chaired by Commerce Minister Anand Sharma. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Indian health officials had announced a three-month ban on such imports Tuesday. But the official clarified that the Health Ministry was making a recommendation and not announcing a government decision.

PRINT

Tweet 0



**japantimes** Eye problems from unauthorized lash extension services on the increase in Japan - [ow.ly/dun9M](http://ow.ly/dun9M)  
18 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

**japantimes** Japan looking to maintain high standards as Brazil beckons - [ow.ly/dvbki](http://ow.ly/dvbki)  
about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite

**japantimes** Abe in crowded field vying for LDP helm - [ow.ly/dvbkf](http://ow.ly/dvbkf)  
about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite

**japantimes** Soil & "Pimp" Sessions, Jaga Jazzist and Bruut! challenge jazz's conservative image - [ow.ly/dvbkh](http://ow.ly/dvbkh)  
about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

Poll Most read stories Editors' picks

A piece of your mind

### Scared or prepared?

The government [upped its casualty estimate for a killer quake-tsunami combo](#) by more than a factor of 10. What's your take?

- Forewarned is forearmed. This information will save lives.**
- All this does is scare people. It's not helpful.**
- It's inspired me to think more seriously about possible evacuation routes.**
- Numbers like these aren't much more than a guess.**

VOTE

Total Votes : 1593

[View past polls](#)

 E-MAIL

Like 0



We welcome your opinions. [Click to send a message to the editor.](#)

The Japan Times  
(C) All rights reserved

Article 6 of 10 in [Business news](#)

[◀ Previous](#) [Next ▶](#)

[Back to top ▲](#)

[About us](#) | [Work for us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Link policy](#) | [Registration FAQ](#)

[Advertise](#) in [japantimes.co.jp](#).

This site has been optimized for modern browsers. Please make sure that Javascript is enabled in your browser's preferences.  
The Japan Times Ltd. All rights reserved.