

Environment-conscious Foods/Organic Foods

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THE DIFFERENCES OF ORGANIC CERTIFICATION STANDARDS BETWEEN JAPAN, US, AND AUSTRALIA

There is a tight solidarity among the Japanese organic certification standard and EU, US, Australia, and other industrialized countries. These standards include the prohibition of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to grow the crops, and for the farmland, it must be taken care of under the law of organic foods for at least 3 years until it can become certified as an organic farmland. For processed foods, the organic agricultural products and processed organic agricultural foods must account for over 95% of the total mass for the ingredients, excluding water and salt.

The differences in the organic certification standard between EU and Japan are dairy products such as butter and milk, pork-derived gelatin from organic agricultural and livestock products, and yeast extract. This means that not all certified products in Europe would be qualified for the Japanese organic JAS certification.

Let's take a look at what kind of products are being sold as organic. The top 5 organic JAS/ Organic products (end of January 2012) on the online shopping website run by one of the major mail order sales companies, Kenko.com Inc. is as follows.



#1 Mount Hagen Organic Instant Coffee Decaffeinated 100g 1260 yen



#2 Organic Instant Coffee Freeze-dry (refill) 80g 714 yen



#3 Lubs Organic Fruits bar Strawberry & Vanilla 40g 273 yen



#4 Tahiti Organic Fermented Noni Noni100 1000ml 7140 yen



#5 Lubs Organic Fruits Bar Raspberry 30g 252 yen

Next, we will have a look at a popular organic store in Tokyo. A company that imports organic foods from overseas and manufactures and sells side dishes made of organic foods manages this store. Including restaurants, they have 17 stores in and around Tokyo that sells side dishes. They provide side dishes and lunch boxes that are fancy and healthy using delicious organic products in season, imported directly from different parts of the world. They have the ingredients that they use written down along with the information of where they are from.

For products that contain allergen, they display the 7 specifically classified items, as well as the 18 items that are recommended by the nation. Specifically classified ingredients: grain, buckwheat, egg, milk, peanuts, shrimp, crab Recommended items: abalone, squid, salmon roe, orange, kiwi, beef, walnut, salmon, mackerel, chicken, soybean, banana, pork, matsutake mushroom, peach, yam, apple, gelatin

As for vegetables and fruits, chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers are not used and none of the agricultural products are cultivated by gene recombination. For marine products, only natural ones are used and ones that are suspected of having antibiotics in their bodies are not used. To maintain the quality, the store conducts an inspection regularly to check for remaining pesticides from agricultural products and antibiotics from livestock and marine products. The store has many female customers.

