



## **AVA LIFTS SUSPENSION ON IMPORT OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM HYOGO AND SHIZUOKA PREFECTURES**

AVA is lifting the suspension of fruits and vegetables from Shizuoka and Hyogo prefectures with immediate effect. This follows investigations by the Japanese authorities, which had ascertained that the samples of contaminated vegetables were not from these two prefectures.

2. Since the start of the incident at Fukushima Nuclear Plant, AVA has been testing for radioactive contaminants in food imports from Japan to ensure that they are safe for consumption. AVA had suspended the import of fruits and vegetables from those Japanese prefectures where samples of radioactive contaminated vegetables had originated from.

3. The import of vegetables and fruits from Shizuoka and Hyogo prefectures was suspended on 31 March and 4 April 2011 respectively after AVA detected radioactive contaminants in samples of komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach) and cabbage that were declared to be imported from Shizuoka and Hyogo prefectures respectively.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan carried out investigations and had since ascertained that the samples of vegetables were from Saitama and Ibaraki prefectures, and the exporters had wrongly declared the origins of the vegetables. Both Saitama and Ibaraki had already been suspended from exporting food products to Singapore on 26 March and 23 March 2011 respectively.

5. In addition, MAFF and the prefectural authorities had done follow-up tests on samples of vegetables from Shizuoka and Hyogo and found them to be safe for consumption.

6. The Japanese authorities have expressed regret over the incidents and assured AVA that no food produce from suspended prefectures would be exported to Singapore. They have taken regulatory action against the errant traders. They have also put in place measures to prevent such incidents from recurring in future.

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7. In view of these assurances, AVA is lifting the suspension of fruits and vegetables from Shizuoka and Hyogo prefectures with immediate effect.

8. Japan has also started issuing certificates of origin (COO) to accompany food products exported to Singapore to facilitate traceability of the source. We will continue to work with our Japanese counterparts to ensure smooth implementation in the issuance of COO.

9. AVA will continue with its surveillance of food imports from Japan to ensure that they are safe for consumption.

Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority  
**On 16 May 2011**

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**Status of Suspension**

To date, 1,274 samples of fruits and vegetables, seafood, meat, milk and milk products imported from Japan have been tested for radioactive contamination.

The status of our suspension of food imports from Japan as at 16 May 2011 is as follows:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Item</b>
Fukushima, Ibaraki*, Tochigi* and Gunma*	Milk, milk products, seafood, meat, fruits and vegetables
Chiba*, Kanagawa*, Tokyo* and Saitama*	Fruits and vegetables

*\* Prefectures in the Kanto Region*

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