

February 1, 2017

Announcement of Import/Export Procedures for Sheep-Related Goods in Line with the Amended Descriptions of the CITES Appendices

From September 24 to October 4, 2016, the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (CoP17) was held in the Republic of South Africa. At the meeting, it was decided to amend the CITES Appendices. The revised CITES Appendices came into force on January 2, 2017.

In light of the decision, the descriptions of sheep (*Ovis aries*) in the CITES Appendices were amended. This amendment does not change the range of regulated targets but does adjust the descriptions in line with the change in the scientific name of sheep (*Ovis*). However, Japan is now conducting consultations with the CITES Secretariat and other related member countries regarding certain matters that should be confirmed in destination and originating countries concerning sheep (*Ovis*) and products thereof to be exported and imported. In light of this situation, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) hereby announces that it has decided on the immediate customs procedures involving sheep (*Ovis*) and products thereof as follows. METI will make a separate announcement if any of the procedures change.

Notice

1. Sheep-related goods to be imported from Australia

If you are an importer or exporter, including customs-related businesses, and intend to import from Australia to Japan sheep-related goods originating from sheep domesticated in Australia, you are advised to submit to customs in Japan for import declaration an invoice or other document proving that the goods are sheep-related goods originating from sheep domesticated in Australia, since the CITES Management Authority in Australia has already issued a notice to Japan that such goods are not sourced from those on the CITES register.

2. Sheep-related goods to be imported from New Zealand

If you are an importer or exporter, including customs-related businesses, and intend to import from New Zealand to Japan sheep-related goods originating from sheep domesticated in New Zealand, you are advised to submit to customs in Japan for import declaration an invoice or other document proving that the goods are sheep-related goods originating from sheep domesticated in New Zealand, since the CITES Management Authority in New Zealand has already issued a notice to Japan that

such goods are not sourced from those on the CITES register.

3. Sheep-related goods from other countries

If you intend to declare to customs any imports/exports involving sheep-related goods from countries other than the countries in Items 1 and 2 above, Japan will take the following procedures.

1) Imports/exports of goods other than sheep meat and live sheep

If you intend to import or export such goods, you are required to submit an “identification document showing that the target goods are not subject to the species listed in Appendix I (*Ovis aries ophion*, *Ovis aries vignei*) and that the goods are originated in sheep that have been domesticated” (hereinafter referred to as the “identification document”).

A. As for import, the identification document that you should submit to customs for import declaration is a “document that an exporter of the target goods has prepared,” in principle. However, if you are an importer who has imported any goods originating in the same type of sheep before, a “document that an importer, including customs-related businesses, has prepared” is permitted as the identification document.

In addition, if you intend to import sheep-related goods as an individual, a “document that an importer, including customs-related businesses, of the target goods has prepared” is permitted as the identification document, whether or not you have imported such goods before.

B. As for export, the identification document that you should submit to customs for export declaration is a “document that an exporter, including customs-related businesses, of the target goods has prepared.” As for the domestic measures in destination countries, METI recommends that you make inquiries with the destination country to which you intend to export the goods in advance.

2) Imports/exports of sheep meat and live sheep

A. If you intend to make any import declaration at customs, you are required to submit the following documents according to the target goods to customs to receive permission for import:

[i] Sheep meat

- A certificate of import quarantine issued by the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan

[ii] Live sheep

- A certificate of import quarantine issued by the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan

- A document showing that the target goods are not subject to the species listed in

Appendix I (*Ovis aries ophion*, *Ovis aries vignei*), including those prepared by an importer, including customs-related businesses

B. If you intend to make any export declaration at customs, you are required to submit a certificate of export quarantine issued by the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan to receive permission for export.

Division in charge

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