

Technical Criteria for Certifying Re-packers
of Organic Plants, Organic Processed Foods, Organic Feeds and Organic Livestock etc.
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(Preliminary Translation)

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I. Facilities for re-packing and attaching grading labels

1. Facilities for re-packing

Facilities for organic plants, organic processed foods, organic feeds and organic livestock etc. shall comply with the criteria of “Management concerning transportation, selection, processing, cleaning, storage, packaging, and other post-harvest processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese Agricultural Standard of organic plants (Notification No. 1605 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005; hereafter referred to as the “JAS for organic plants”), “Management concerning manufacturing, processing, packaging, storage, and other processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese Agricultural Standard of Organic Processed Foods (Notification No.1606 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005; hereinafter referred to as the “JAS for organic processed foods”), “Management concerning manufacturing, processing, packaging, storage and other processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Feeds (Notification No.1607 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005; hereinafter referred to as the “JAS for organic feeds”) and “Management of slaughter, dressing, selection, processing, cleaning, storage, packaging, and other processes” in Article 4 of the Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Livestock etc. (Notification No.1608 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of October 27, 2005; hereinafter referred to as the “JAS for organic livestock etc.”) respectively, and shall be provided with such broadness, structure and brightness not as interfering the re-packing and shall be cleaned appropriately.

2. Facilities for grading labeling

Facilities shall be for managing grading labeling.

II.Methods for Re-packing

1. Re-packing directors prescribed in III-2 in these criteria shall conduct as follows:

- (1) Drafting and promoting a plan of re-packing; and
- (2) Handling and providing guidance on troubles occurred re-packing processes.

2. Internal rules on the following items shall be practically and systematically provided:

- (1) Acceptance and storage of organic plants, organic processed foods of plant origin, organic feeds and organic livestock etc. (hereinafter referred to as “organic foods and feeds”);

- (2) Confirmation of grading labels of organic foods and feeds before re-packing;
 - (3) Re-packing methods;
 - (4) Machines and tools for re-packing;
 - (5) Making records of re-packing as well as the retention period of those records and related documents which can be proof of those;
 - (6) Dealing with complaints
 - (7) Matters necessary for a certification body (registered Japanese or overseas certifying body; hereinafter the same) to properly conduct services such as confirmation of re-packing.
3. Re-packing shall be properly conducted in accordance the internal rules.
 4. The internal rules shall be reviewed properly and periodically, and fully notified to the employees.

III. Qualification and Number of Persons in Charge of Re-packing

1. Re-packer

No less than one person who satisfy(ies) any of the following requirements shall be assigned as a person(s) in charge of re-packing (hereinafter referred to as “re-packer”):

- (1) Those who graduated from a high school or a secondary education school under the School Education Law (Law No.26 of 1947); or whose qualifications are equal to or higher than the above; and who have practical experiences in food distribution for no less than two years; or
- (2) Those who have practical experiences in food distribution for no less than three years.

2. Re-packing director

- (1) Where one person is assigned as a re-packer, the person shall complete a curriculum on re-packing in a course designated by a certification body (hereinafter referred to as “course”) as a re-packing director.
- (2) Where no less than two persons are assigned as re-packers, one of them who completed the curriculum on re-packing shall be selected as a re-packing director.

IV. Section for Attaching Grading Labels and the Implementation Methods

1. Section for attaching grading labels

The department for attaching grading labels shall be a substantially independent section and have an independent authority from the sales department.

2. Methods for grading labels

- (1) Rules on grading label (hereinafter referred to as “grading label rules” hereafter) shall be practically and systematically provided for the following items:
 - a. Labeling as graded;
 - b. Shipping and disposing a lot after labeling as graded;
 - c. Handling of a lot which is turned out to be non-compliant with the JAS for organic plants, organic processed foods, organic feeds or organic livestock etc. after its shipment;
 - d. Making and keeping a record of labeling as graded; and
 - e. Matters necessary for a certification body to properly conduct services such as confirmation of grading.

- (2) Grading label shall be recognized as properly attached, removed or deleted in accordance with the grading label rules without fail.
- (3) Name of products shall be properly labeled by the methods prescribed in Article 5 of the JAS for organic plants, Article 5 of the JAS for organic livestock etc. and Article 5 of the JAS for organic feeds. Names of products and names of ingredients shall be properly labeled by the methods prescribed in Article 5 of the JAS for organic processed foods.

V. Qualification and Number of Persons in Charge of Grading Label

No less than one person in charge of grading label who have (has) completed the curriculum on labeling as graded shall be assigned.

(Schedule of the last revision)

Notification No.691 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries published on March 29, 2018 shall be effective as from April 1, 2018.