

Guidelines for the import of food stuffs from Japan for Frieze Art Fair 2014.

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General:

As an art project at the Fair, it is proposed to serve soup made of vegetables grown in the region of Fukushima in Japan. In light of the radiation issue emanating from the damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plant due to the earthquake of 2011, the following guidelines should be taken into account prior to the event to ensure legality and consumer safety:

Technical overview:

The international safety standard for radioactivity in foodstuffs is set at a maximum of 100 becquerels (unit of radioactivity) per kilogram. It is generally accepted that food for sale from this area falls within this safe limit, although expert opinion is divided due to the apparent withholding of some data by the Japanese Government.

Caesium, the element involved, has a half-life in the human body of 70 days and is naturally excreted. Due to the low-level of radiation involved and low-level of consumption and frequency, the level of cesium within the body would not raise to a level that was close to the safe limits.

UK Food Standards Agency guidelines as at April 2014, edited for relevance:

The import of foodstuffs from this region will be subject for EU regulation No. 322/2014.

Certain measures apply to most feed and food originating in or consigned from 15 prefectures of Japan, including the four most affected by the accident. The prefectures listed in the regulation are: Aomori, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Yamanashi, Saitama, Chiba, Akita (for certain products only), Yamagata (for certain products only), Iwate and Shizuoka. The list of applicable feeds and foods from the prefectures can be found in Annex IV to the legislation.

Each consignment of food or feed listed in Annex IV of the legislation, from the 15 prefectures must be accompanied by a declaration – signed by the Japanese authorities, attesting that the product complies with legislation in force in Japan, as regards the maximum levels for the sum of the radionuclides: caesium-134 and caesium-137. The declarations must be accompanied by the results of analysis.

Importers are required to notify the Border Inspection Post (BIP) or Designated Points of Entry (DPE) at the port of entry two working days before the arrival of each consignment of food and feed from Japan.

Upon arrival in the EU, the competent authorities of the BIP or DPE should carry out documentary checks on all food and feed consignments from Japan. Consignments must be accompanied by the declaration and, for relevant products from the specified prefectures, the results of analysis.

Each consignment should be identified by a code on the declaration, analytical report, the sanitary (health) certificate and on any commercial documents accompanying the consignment.