

Notification System for the Importation of Animals

- **Authority**

Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases (the Infectious Diseases Control Law) (Article 56-2)
Enforcement Ordinance of the Act (Article 28 to 31)

- **Overview**

Effective from September 1, 2005, the following procedures are required in order to import “live Rodents, Lagomorpha and other terrestrial mammals”, “live birds” and “carcasses of Rodents and Lagomorpha” into Japan (Not only animals for distribution and exhibition but also pets for personal possession are covered). *

- (i) A written notification showing details of the animals such as their species name and quantity should be submitted to a quarantine station of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (see Attachment 1: *Notification Form*). The notification form should be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the government authorities of the exporting country certifying that the animals are free from infectious diseases (see Attachment 2: *Contents of a Health Certificate*).
- (ii) Based on a review of the notification form, health certificate and identification of the consignee, the quarantine station will issue a notification receipt to the consignee if no problems are found with the documents (see Attachment 3: *Detailed Procedures*).
- (iii) On the completion of the inspection at the customs concerning compliance with other regulations, the animals are authorized to enter Japan.

* The system doesn't cover animals that have already been quarantined, or whose importation is banned.

- Animals that have already been quarantined by the Animal Quarantine Service of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

Artiodactyla (Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Giraffe etc.), Perissodactyla (Horse, Zebra etc.), Lagomorpha (Rabbit etc.), Poultry (Fowl, Ostrich, Duck etc.): Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law

Dog, Cat, Raccoon, Fox, and Skunk: Rabies Prevention Law

Monkeys (specified condition): Infectious Diseases Control Law

- Animals whose importation is banned by Infectious Diseases Control Law.

Chinese ferret badger, Bat, Raccoon-dog, Masked palm civet, Prairie dog, *Mastomys natalensis*, Monkey

Notification Form

厚生労働大臣 殿

動物又はその死体を輸入するので、感染症の予防及び感染症の患者に対する医療に関する法律（平成10年法律第114号）第56条の2の規定により届け出ます。

なお、同法及び感染症の予防及び感染症の患者に対する医療に関する法律施行規則（平成10年厚生省令第99号）を遵守し、記載事項に虚偽がないことを誓約します。

Date of notification 届出年月日 Name of importer 氏 名 Address of importer 住 所 Telephone number 連絡先電話番号
(法人の場合、名称、所在地及び代表者の氏名)

種 類	<input type="text" value="Animal species"/>		
数 量	<input type="text" value="Quantity"/>		
原 産 国	<input type="text" value="Country of origin"/>	由 来	<input type="text" value="Origin of animal"/>
用 途	<input type="text" value="Intended end-usage"/>	搭載船舶（航空機）名	<input type="text" value="Ship name or flight number of aircraft"/>
輸 出 国 及 び 積 出 地	<input type="text" value="Name of exporting country and port of loading"/>	到着地及び保管場所	<input type="text" value="Name of port of discharge and warehouse"/>
搭 載 年 月 日	<input type="text" value="Date of loading"/>	到 着 年 月 日	<input type="text" value="Date of arrival"/>
船荷証券又は航空運送状の番号	<input type="text" value="Number of bill of lading or air-consignment note"/>	衛生証明書の発行番号	<input type="text" value="Health certificate number"/>
衛生証明書の記載に係る動物の性別、年齢及び個体識別上の特徴	<input type="text" value="Sex, age and distinctive marks of animal on health certificate registration"/>		
荷送人の氏名及び住所 <small>(法人の場合、名称、所在地及び代表者の氏名)</small>	<input type="text" value="Name and address of consignor"/>		
荷受人の氏名及び住所 <small>(法人の場合、名称、所在地及び代表者の氏名)</small>	<input type="text" value="Name and address of consignee"/>		
輸入後の保管施設の名称及び所在地 <small>(個人の場合、氏名及び住所)</small>	<input type="text" value="Name and address of storage establishment"/>		
輸送中の事故の概要	<input type="text" value="Accidents on passage"/>		
備考（検疫所使用欄） <input type="text" value="(Quarantine use)"/>	届出を受理した旨 <input type="text" value="(Stamp)"/>		

注意 用紙の大きさは、A4とすること。

Contents of a Health Certificate

A health certificate issued by the government authorities of the exporting country should contain the following information.

The certificate should be written in English and include a seal or embossed stamp of the government authorities of the exporting country and the signature or seal of the government official concerned.

1. Name and address of the government authorities of the exporting country
2. Name and title of the government official of the exporting country
3. Date issued
4. Number of the issue
5. Names and addresses of the consignor and consignee
6. Name of species and the quantity of animals
7. Place and date of the boarding/loading, and the name of the vessel or flight number
8. In the case of live rodents or their carcasses, names and addresses of both the facility where the animal were born and facility where they were kept
9. In the case of research rodents which are treated under the advanced sanitary supervision (limited to those in the container which meets the standards defined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. See Attached Table 2-5), name and address of the facility where the animals have been kept since birth
10. Confirmation that the animals are not infected with any infectious diseases, or that there is no doubt concerning any infection (See Attached Table 1 and 2)

Detailed Procedures

1. A written notification for importation (Attachment 1: *Notification Form*) should be submitted, without delay after their arrival in Japan, to the quarantine station responsible for the seaport or airport where the animals entered (See Attached Table 3) upon their arrival in Japan.

2. The notification form should be accompanied by the following:

(i) Health certificate or a certified copy thereof (A photocopy is not acceptable)

(ii) Identification of the consignee

As for the transcript of the corporate register, transcript or abstract of the resident register, certificate of resident registration, or the certificate of a seal impression, once it is submitted to the quarantine station (and there have been no changes within a year since it was issued), resubmission is not required if a statement to the effect is contained in the notification form.

(1) Individuals: Any of the following documents showing the identical name and address to the current address of the consignee in Japan

Passport, driver's license, health insurance certificate, individual number card, foreign resident's registration card, special permanent resident certificate, transcript or abstract of the resident register, certificate of resident registration, or certificate of the seal impression (before the expiration date or it has been issued within a year prior to the submission)

(2) Corporation: Any of the following combinations showing the name of the consignee, the address of the main office, and the name of the representative (issued within a year prior to the submission)

- Transcript of the corporate register; Certificate of the seal impression concerning the seal placed on the declaration form
- Transcript of the corporate register; Documents designated under "1. Individuals" concerning the representative

(3) Agents: Any of the following combinations

- Documents specified in section (1) "Individuals" concerning the consignee and the agent; Proxy signed or sealed by the consignee
- Documents specified in "section (1) "Individuals" concerning the consignee; Proxy signed and sealed by the consignee; Certificate of the seal impression concerning the seal placed on the authorization form (issued within a year prior to the submission)

(iii) Copy of the bill of lading or air-consignment note concerning importation of the animals

- (iv) In the case of research rodents which are treated under the advanced sanitary supervision (limited to those in the container which meets the standards defined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. See Attached Table 2-5), test results of periodically microbiological examination of the animals or monitor animals
- 3. Based on a review of the contents of the submitted documents such as the notification form and health certificate, the quarantine station will affix a seal to the notification form and issue it as a receipt when no problems are found.
- 4. The quarantine station will suggest appropriate disposition of the animals from a sanitary viewpoint if the notification does not comply with the regulations. In this case, the consignee should ensure or ask someone else to ensure appropriate disposition.

Table 1

Required contents of the certification for the animals

• **Live terrestrial mammals**

Subject	Infectious diseases	Contents of the certification
Mammals (excluding Rodents)	Rabies	1. The animal shows no clinical signs of rabies at the time of shipment 2. Meeting any of the following conditions: (1) The animal has been kept for the past 6 months, or since birth or capture in a region that the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare has designated as one where rabies has not been reported (referred to as a “designated region” hereinafter. See Attached Table 2-3). (2) The animal has been kept for 12 months or since birth in a storage facility where rabies has not been reported for the past 12 months in a non-designated region (see Attached Table 2-1). (3) The animal has been kept for the past 6 months or since birth in a quarantine facility in a non-designated region (see Attached Table 2-1). (4) The animal is confirmed to have met either of conditions (2) or (3) when imported from a non-designated region to a designated region and has been kept in a designated region since then.
Lagomorpha (<i>Ochotona</i> spp.)	Tularemia	1. The animal shows no clinical signs of tularemia at the time of shipment 2. The animal has been kept for the past 12 months or since birth in a storage facility where tularemia has not been reported for the past 12 months. 3. The animal has been disinfected for Ixodes (ticks). 4. The animal has been kept for the past 15 days or since birth in a quarantine facility.
Rodents	Plague, rabies, mpox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia, and leptospirosis	1. The animal shows no clinical signs of rabies at the time of shipment 2. The animal has been kept since birth in a storage facility where infectious diseases designated in the left column have not been confirmed for the past 12 months (limited to those recognized by the government authorities of the exporting country as meeting the standards defined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. See Attached Table 2-2).

• **Live terrestrial mammals (continued)**

Subject	Infectious diseases	Contents of the certification
Rodents (treated under the advanced sanitary supervision which are limited to those in the container which meets the standards defined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. See Attached Table 2-5)	Plague, rabies, mpox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia, and leptospirosis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The animals have been stored since birth in a place that is in a storage facility meeting all of the following, that has been isolated from other areas, and in which there have been no other animals than such rodents. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Feeding control (hereafter including the management of records of the animals and their breeding, shipment and death) and sanitary control are carried out under the supervision of a committee consisting of members concerned including veterinarians in the facility. (2) Appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the intrusion of animals from outside is prevented. (3) When introduced into the facility, the animals are confirmed not to be contaminated with pathogens of infectious diseases in order to prevent the intrusion of pathogens of infectious diseases that may infect humans through animals. (4) Examinations are conducted periodically on all the animals stored in the facility to confirm they are not contaminated with pathogens of infectious diseases. (5) Information concerning the feeding and sanitary controls of the animals is recorded in documents and such documents are retained. 2. Since births, the animals have not been used in any study with pathogens of infectious disease or have not come in contact with any animal used in such a study.

• Carcasses

Subject	Infectious diseases	Contents of the certification
Rodents	Plague, mpox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia, and leptospirosis	The animal has been kept since birth in a storage facility where infectious diseases designated in the left column have not been confirmed for the past 12 months (limited to those recognized by the government authorities of the exporting country as meeting the standards stipulated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. See Attached Table 2-2).
Lagomorpha (<i>Ochotona</i> spp.)	Tularemia	Those meeting all of the following three conditions: 1. The animal has been kept for the past 12 months or since birth in a storage facility where tularemia has not been observed for the past 12 months. 2. The animal has been disinfected for Ixodes (ticks). 3. The animal has been kept for the past 15 days or since birth in a quarantine facility.
Formalin-fixed or ethanol-fixed carcasses of Rodents	Plague, mpox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia, and leptospirosis	1. Permeated to center of carcass by either a formaldehyde solution (limited to those with a concentration of 3.5% by weight or more) or an ethanol solution (limited to those with a concentration of 70% by weight or more) at the time of shipment. 2. Kept in airtight containers (with no risk of the infiltration of gases or microorganisms under ordinary handling or storage conditions) filled with the solution at the time of shipment.
Formalin-fixed or ethanol-fixed carcasses of Lagomorpha (<i>Ochotona</i> spp.)	Tularemia	1. Permeated to center of carcass by either a formaldehyde solution (limited to those with a concentration of 3.5% by weight or more) or an ethanol solution (limited to those with a concentration of 70% by weight or more) at the time of shipment. 2. Kept in airtight containers (with no risk of the infiltration of gases or microorganisms under ordinary handling or storage conditions) filled with the solution at the time of shipment.

* Carcasses of animals other than Rodents or Lagomorpha (*Ochotona* spp.) are not covered by this notification system.

- **Live birds**

Subject	Infectious diseases	Contents of the certification
Birds	West Nile fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birds show no clinical signs of West Nile fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza or low pathogenic avian influenza at the time of shipment 2. For birds that have been raised since hatching, those that have been kept for the past 21 days or since hatching in a storage facility (limited to those with preventive measures against the invasion of mosquitoes) in regions that the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare has designated as being among those recognized by international organizations that Japan has joined (such as WOA and WHO) as regions where highly pathogenic avian influenza or low pathogenic avian influenza has not been confirmed (referred to as “designated region”. See Attached Table 2-4). 3. Except for birds that have been raised since hatching, those that have been kept for the past 21 days or since hatching in a quarantine facility (limited to those with preventive measures against the invasion of mosquitoes) in a designated region.

* Carcasses of birds are not covered by this notification system.

<Not applicable>

- Marine mammals

Cetacean (Whale, Dolphin etc.), Cowfish (Dugong, Manatee etc.), Carnivores (Sea lions, Seahorse, Earless seals, Sea otter)

- Animals that have already been quarantined by the Animal quarantine service of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

Artiodactyla (Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Giraffe etc.), Perissodactyla (Horse, Zebra etc.), Lagomorpha (Rabbit and Hare), Poultry (Fowl, Ostrich, Duck etc.): Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law

Dog, Cat, Raccoon, Fox, and Skunk: Rabies Prevention Law

Monkeys (specified condition) : Infectious Diseases Control Law

- Animals which importation is banned by Infectious Diseases Control Law.

Chinese ferret badger, Bat, Raccoon-dog, Masked palm civet, Prairie dog, Mastomys natalensis, Monkey

1. Definition

For the purpose of the Attached Table 1, the following definitions are used.

Storage facility: Facility where the animals are kept.

Quarantine facility: Facility where any required observations, examinations and processes are conducted for quarantined population of animals without direct or indirect contact with other animals under the control of the government authorities of the exporting country. (Notification from exporting country to Japan is not necessary.)

2. Standards for storage facilities for Rodents stipulated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

The government authorities of the exporting country should inform the Japanese government (the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) of the names and addresses of storage facilities* for Rodents recognized as meeting the following conditions prior to exportation.

1. The construction of the facility must be appropriate in order to prevent the intrusion of animals from outside.
2. Sanitary controls, such as disinfection, must be periodically implemented.
3. No outbreak of Plague, rabies, mpox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia, and leptospirosis has been clinically reported in human beings and animals in the facility for the past 12 months, and necessary measures have been taken in order to prevent the outbreak of these infectious diseases.
4. The data regarding the sanitary and feeding control of animals (including records of the introduction, breeding, death and shipment of animals) must be recorded and be kept adequately.

*: “storage facility” include all facilities where the animals were born, kept and packed for exportation.

3. Regions designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as rabies free region
(as of July 30, 2013. Will be updated as necessary)

Pacific:

Australia, Guam, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii

Europe:

Iceland, Ireland, United Kingdom (limited to Great Britain and North Ireland), Sweden, and Norway (except for Svalbard, Jan Mayen and dependencies outside Europe)

4. Regions designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as HPAI and LPAI free region (selected from among those reporting that they have no outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenic avian influenza to international organizations, such as WOA and WHO)

Please see the following website.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000134696.html>

5. Standards for the container of Rodents which are treated under the advanced sanitary supervision that are stipulated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

1. Material

- (1) The internal material of the main part of the container should be water-proof paper or impermeable material (excluding wood) and also have enough strength to resist any damage caused by animal inside the container.
- (2) The ventilating filter incorporated in the container should be made of polyester resin or other plastic resin which is impenetrable to dust.

2. Structure

The container should be structured so that it does not easily open, and the internal and external material of the container should only be bordered with ventilating filter.

List of Destination Quarantine Stations

Please see the following website.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou/quarantine.html>