

“Extruded” or “Retort Processed” Pet Foods/Treats/Chews

APHIS does not issue certificates for these pet foods/treats/chews to Japan.

Our understanding is that no animal health certification is required for fully processed cooked (finished, packaged, ready for retail sale, shelf-stable) pet food to be imported to Japan.

Fully processed cooked means materials must be:

- Cooked and dry (“crunchy”) (kibble type products produced through an extrusion process); or
- Semi-moist products produced through an extrusion process*; or
- Hermetically sealed products (packaged using a retort process) (usually known as “canned” products).

[If materials do not meet the above criteria please see information in below sections.]

Package labeling must indicate that product is for consumption by pets (this can be inferred as long as it is obvious to Japanese port authorities that product is not intended for feeding to livestock or use as fertilizer).

Prior to shipment, exporters should still have their importers confirm with Japanese authorities at the port of entry that consignments will be allowed entry. Exporters may wish to provide the importers with photographs of the actual products and scans of the labels for use in the discussions.

*Some border inspection officials in MAFF may not be allowing the import of some semi-moist pet foods/treats even if they are produced through extrusion. Exporters should have their importers discuss in detail with the MAFF officials at the expected port of entry into Japan the nature of the product to confirm if entry will be allowed.