

Alert Regarding Vitamins, Minerals, and Amino Acids (Any Requirements Related to “Animal Origin” or “Non-Animal Origin Content”)

Japan considers all materials derived from animals or from animal-origin materials (e.g. wool) that come from animals to be animal-origin, and thus subject to their animal health related import requirements.

Therefore, whenever the IREGS reference (in relation to exports to Japan), “animal origin”, that reference includes all materials derived in any part from animal-origin materials. This includes vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, even if the only animal-origin component is a microscopic amount of animal-origin gelatin in the vitamin molecule.

Therefore, all references related to Japan, to “ingredients/materials of animal origin” should be interpreted as “ingredient/materials of animal origin, even vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.” Similarly, references to “no animal origin ingredients” should be interpreted as “no animal origin ingredients, not even vitamins, minerals, or amino acids.” The same is true for other references with similar wording.

Extreme care should be taken when reviewing ingredients in products – watching closely for materials like vitamin D and vitamin A which both often are animal-origin or contain animal-origin components (e.g. vitamin A generally contains gelatin which could be of animal origin).