

## Taiwan conditionally lifts import ban on Japanese beef

*Move seen as a step toward a trade agreement between the two sides*

1) TAIPEI (Kyodo) -- Taiwan on Monday conditionally lifted a 16-year-old ban on beef imports from Japan, clearing a major roadblock in negotiations on an economic partnership agreement, the government announced.

2) The Executive Yuan, the executive branch of Taiwan's government, said on its website that the new measure comes into force with immediate effect.

3) The announcement came after the Food and Drug Administration issued a two-month notification on July 17 that Taiwan had decided in principle to lift the bans.

4) FDA Division of Food Safety section head Wu Tsung told Kyodo News that the Taiwan government will now wait for the Japanese government to provide a list of government-certified facilities so Taiwanese importers can import Japanese beef from those facilities.

5) Nearly 95 percent of Taiwan's beef is imported. Last year the United States was Taiwan's No. 1 beef supplier by weight and value, followed by Australia and New Zealand.

6) Before the bans were imposed following the discovery of cattle with mad cow disease, Japan exported a minuscule amount of beef and beef products to Taiwan.

7) In 2000, Japan shipped only 4 tons, only 0.01 percent of the total amount imported by Taiwan that year.

8) According to the details published on the FDA website, when shipments resume, Japanese beef and beef products exported to Taiwan must come from cattle less than 30 months old. Younger cattle are considered to pose less risk of mad cow disease.

9) Taiwan also agreed to resume Japanese beef imports on the condition that the cattle are slaughtered or processed at government-certified facilities and come from cattle which can be traced to the farms where they were born and raised for more than 100 days.

10) Also, specific risk materials, parts of the cow that are at particular risk of infection, must be removed from cows slaughtered for beef and beef products shipped to Taiwan. Mechanically recovered meat, mechanically separated meat and advanced meat recovery product from the skull and vertebral too will not be accepted. All imports of Japanese beef and beef products must also pass related radiation inspections and carry government documents with necessary information proving that they pass necessary inspections, the FDA website said.

Lifting the ban on Japanese beef is seen by many as an important step forward in the bilateral negotiations on an EPA.

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Matsuzaka beef, a variety of Wagyu, on sale in Tokyo.

タイトル

conditionally 条件付きで

lift 解除する

ban 禁止

1)

roadblock 道路上のバリケード、障害物、(目的を)妨げる物

2)

the Executive Yuan 行政院

come into force 効力を発する

immediate effect 即効

3)

Food and Drug Administration 食品医薬局

notification 通知

in principle 原則として

6)

cattle 畜牛

mad cow disease 狂牛病

minuscule ①小文字で書かれた②非常に小さい、ほんのわずかな

8)

resume 再開する

pose risk 危険をもたらす

9)

on the condition that～～という条件の下で

slaughter 畜殺する

process 処理する

10)

infection 感染

skull 頭蓋、頭蓋骨

vertebral 脊椎

bilateral 両国間の

### ★Icebreaker for active discussion

1. Are you a meat lover? What meat dish do you like the best?

2. What factors do you consider when you buy meat?

3. For Japan, what are the advantages and disadvantages of Taiwan's lift of the ban on beef imports?

4. Please explain what you know about EPA.

5. Make sentences using the following words: conditionally, ban, notification, minuscule, resume and infection.