



CIRCULAR

16 January 2012

All Food Importer / Declaring Agents

[All declaring agents are requested to inform the importers on the contents of the circular.]

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (COO) FOR GREEN TEA PRODUCTS FROM JAPAN

Please refer to our circular dated 21 April 2011, 3 June 2011 and 27 June 2011.

In view of the recent detections of radioactive contaminants in green tea products imported from Japan, AVA will be imposing Certificate of Origin (COO) for import of every consignment of green tea and green tea product from Japan. The Japanese Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (MAFF), has informed that they will be ready to issue COO for green tea and green tea products exported to Singapore with effect from 15 January 2012. The COO will be issued by individual prefectural government in Japan. The contact information of prefectural government can be found in our circular dated 27 June 2011. Your suppliers can contact the prefectural governments directly if they would like to enquire on the procedures of COO application.

To facilitate import clearance of green tea products, you are required to declare the prefecture of origin accordingly in your permit declaration and fax in a copy of the COO for our verification.

AVA would like to reiterate that the submission of COO is mandatory for all imports of milk and milk products, meat, seafood, fruits and vegetables (fresh and processed),

seaweed and green tea products from Japan. The original COO received is to be submitted to our inspectors during inspection or to our head office at the address above. COO is an important instrument that allows AVA to trace the product to its origin so that AVA would know exactly which are the problematic areas and take the correct follow-up actions in the event that contaminations are detected.

Please feel free to contact the following officers if you need further clarifications on food importation from Japan:

Processed Food	Ms June Choo Mr Benny Quek	Tel: 6325 7664 Tel: 6325 0784 <u>Fax: 6221 5091</u>
Meat, Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Mr Li Lu Ms June Koh	Tel: 6325 7617 Tel: 6325 7683 <u>Fax: 6325 7648</u>
Seafood	Mr Koh Cheng Liat Mr Bernard Lee	Tel: 6325 7879 Tel: 6325 7652 <u>Fax: 6325 7650</u>

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Li Lu

Assistant Manager (Food)

Quarantine & Inspection Department

For Director-General, Agri-Food & Veterinary Services

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