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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

2018 FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report lists major export certificates required by the Japanese government to export food and agricultural products to Japan. For more information on Japan's import requirements, see FAS/Japan's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Annual Country Report at <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) of the USDA/Foreign

Agricultural Service in Tokyo, Japan for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in preparation of this report, information provided may no longer be complete or precise as some import requirements are subject to frequent changes. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary custom clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sales conditions are finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix)

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
1	Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit, semi-dried fruits, certain nuts ¹ , logs and green lumber with bark	Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form577) (issued by USDA Animal Health and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS))	Attestation to the absence of quarantine pests (injurious plants and animals) Attestation of the temperature of freezing (at least zero degrees Fahrenheit) for frozen vegetables and fruit	Mandatory phytosanitary requirement for submission to the plant protection station of a designated port of entry with an import inspection application form	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)
2	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	FSIS Form 9060-5 (issued by USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS))	Attestation of wholesomeness	Must be issued by the competent government authority of an exporting country for imports of all meat	MAFF, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)
3	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	FSIS Form 9290-1	Attestation of regulatory compliance and regulatory equivalence	Must be issued by the competent government authority of an exporting country for imports of all meat	MAFF, MHLW
4	Fresh, frozen and processed poultry	FSIS Form 2630-9	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Must be issued by the competent authority of an exporting country for imports of poultry products.	MAFF
5	Beef and beef products derived from cattle aged	FSIS Form 2630-9	Attestation that the products meet the requirements of the AMS LT-30 Quality	Required to allow beef and beef products to be imported into Japan	MAFF, MHLW

¹ This requirement may vary depending on the final product condition (temperature, dryness level, in-shell, etc.).

	less than 30 months and slaughtered in the United States		Systems Assessment program		
6	Dairy products	APHIS Veterinary Certificate (differs according to end-use)	Multiple attestations including those related to foot and mouth disease, animal health, hygienic packaging, and intended end-use	Mandatory requirement by Japanese animal health authority for U.S. dairy products exported to Japan	MAFF
7	Ovine and caprine meat and meat products	FSIS Form 2630-9 / FSIS Form 9060-5 / FSIS Form 9290-1	Multiple attestations including that the products meet the requirements of the EV QSA Program for ovine and caprine meat exported to Japan	Required to allow ovine and caprine meat and meat products to be imported into Japan	MAFF, MHLW
8	Egg products	FSIS Form 9060-5EP / FSIS Form 2630-9	Attestation of wholesomeness / Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease	Required for imports of egg products	MAFF
9	Casings	FSIS Forms (available on FSIS Export Library)	Various animal health attestations depending on the source material for the casings	Required for imports of casings	MAFF
10	Various animal products	APHIS Certificates (available on APHIS iREGS)	Animal health attestations for various animal products (primarily for non-human consumption)	Required for imports of specified animal products	MAFF
11	Organic products (plants, including fungi and plant-based processed products and feed) except organic livestock	TM-11 (issued by USDA/ National Organic Program (NOP) accredited Certification Body which certified	Certifies that the product is of U.S. origin and meets USDA National Organic Program requirements	Required for organic products only if product is not already certified as meeting JAS organic standards by a MAFF-accredited Certification Body	MAFF

	products, dairy and honey	exporting products			
12	Bluefin Tuna, Southern Bluefin Tuna, frozen Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish	Catch Documents and Statistical Documents (issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service)	Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the ocean and against illegal fishing trade	Mandatory requirement to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and to preserve the world's fish resources	Japan Fisheries Agency
13	Sturgeon Caviar	CITES export or re-export permit (issued by Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Attestation that the shipment is in full compliance with the provisions of Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Protect endangered animal species	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
14	Oysters for raw consumption	Harvest tag from U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved states	Attestation confirming coliform count	Must be issued by an FDA-approved state government	MHLW
Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements²					
15	State-traded rice, wheat and barley	No specific name (e.g., test results of packaging materials by MHLW-registered foreign official laboratories)	Must certify that the container meets the specifications and standards for packaging under the Food Sanitation Act (which includes requirements that the product does not contain lead or other dangerous substances)	This requirement is included in the contract for government purchases of rice and results from previous detections of lead levels in rice bags that violated the Food Sanitation Law in 2002	MAFF
16	Wood products	No specific name (e.g., non-governmental certificate)	Attestation against illegal harvest	Mandatory for government procurement, but voluntary for other usage (NOTE: Japanese	Ministry of the Environment, MAFF (Forestry Agency), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,

² Exporters are often asked to provide information necessary to prepare these certifications/notifications/documents.

		which can be issued by a variety of approved authorities)		importers may request documents proving legality)	Transport and Tourism, and METI
17	Woody biomass for power facilities under the Feed-in Tariff	No specific name (e.g., third party chain-of-custody forest certification)	Attestation against illegal harvest and unsustainable forest management practice	In order to use for the Feed-in Tariff program, general woody biomass needs a proof of legality at multiple stages of supply chain	Forestry Agency/ METI
18	Most food products, including beverages	Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc. ³ Documents providing information on ingredients, additives and manufacturing methods Tests results for foods and beverages ⁴	Notification of intent to import a food or beverage product, and documents to provide information on ingredients, additives, and the manufacturing process.	Notification Form for Importation of Foods, and other documents are required to confirm the compliance with specifications and standards under the Food Sanitation Act in order to allow importation.	MHLW

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Certificate 1 –Absence of Quarantine Pests

Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate issued by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Additional specific attestations are required for frozen fruit and vegetables, and other products whose imports are permitted under bilaterally agreed protocols requiring specific phytosanitary measures (e.g., fresh cherries, nectarines, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, wheat and barley straw, and in-shell walnuts from the United States) – see [MAFF’s Appendix to the List of the Import Prohibited Plants](#).

Japanese ports equipped with plant quarantine facilities and equipment are designated as ports of entry for plants. Designated ports and airports are listed in [Article 6 of the Plant Protection Law Enforcement Regulation](#) (Japanese only).

Certificates 2 and 3 - Wholesomeness and Regulatory Compliance/Equivalence

³ See Appendix I of this report.

⁴ Test results are required for foods and beverages whose [Specifications and Standards for Food, Food additives, etc.](#) are established under Japan’s Food sanitation Act.

Fresh, frozen, or processed meat and meat products exported from the United States to Japan must be accompanied by FSIS Form 9060-5 “Meat and Poultry Export Certificate for Wholesomeness” and FSIS Form 9290-1 “Certificate to Export to Japan.” These certificates are issued at the slaughtering or processing facility by a qualified USDA meat and poultry inspector. Export requirements are described in detail in the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 4 – Absence of Risk of Spread of Infectious Disease

The Government of Japan may place import restrictions on U.S. poultry and poultry products due to disease outbreaks such as avian influenza. Poultry products (meat and egg products) and live poultry (including day-old chicks and hatching eggs) originating from or passing through poultry disease quarantine areas may be subject to such import restrictions. Applicants for export certification must determine which certification statement or statements apply to the product based on the date of slaughter. More detailed information on exporting poultry products is available on the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#). More information on exporting live poultry and other birds is available on [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate 5 – USDA LT30 QSA Program for Japan

Production of beef and beef products exported to Japan must adhere to the requirements of the Less than 30 month (LT30) Age-Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Japan, due to BSE findings in the United States in 2003. Under this program, all beef sent to Japan must be from cattle less than 30 months of age at the time of slaughter and produced in facilities audited and approved by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The official listing of eligible suppliers in the LT30 QSA Program for Japan and a description of the specific requirements can be found at [LT30 Age Verification QSA Programs – Japan, Korea, and Taiwan](#) and [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 6 – Dairy Products

Japan requires a veterinary certificate issued by APHIS for dairy products imported from the United States. The specific certificate requirement differs according to whether the product is for human or animal consumption, as well as other factors such as whether or not the product contains other animal origin ingredients. For a full list of the required certificates, please consult [APHIS iREGS](#).

Certificate 7 – USDA EV QSA Program for Ovine and Caprine Meat Exported to Japan

Ovine and caprine meat and meat products exported to Japan must adhere to the requirements of the USDA Export Verification Quality System Assessment (EV QSA) Program for ovine and caprine meat exported to Japan. For more information, please review the EV QSA [Bovine, Ovine and Caprine Export Verification Programs](#) and [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#).

Certificate 8 – Egg Products

FSIS Form 9060-5EP is required for all egg products exported from the United States to Japan. Please consult the FSIS [Export Requirements for Japan \(Egg Products\)](#) to determine which FSIS Letterhead Certificates may also be required.

Certificate 9 – Casings

Casings and products using casings may require specific FSIS certification depending on the type and origin of the casing used. Please consult the [FSIS Export Library – Japan](#) to determine which certificates may apply.

Certificate 10 – Various Animal Products

For animal products not otherwise listed, exporters are advised to consult the [APHIS iREGS](#) website to determine which certificates and other requirements may be necessary for export to Japan. While an export certificate is not required for all products, Japanese importers may need to provide certain documentation to Japanese quarantine officials.

Certificate 11 – TM-11 (Organics)

USDA organic products exported to Japan must be accompanied by a TM-11 organic export certificate that verifies that the product complies with the terms of the 2013 Organics Letter of Agreement between the United States and Japan. For details, please refer to the [USDA AMS National Organic Program \(NOP\)](#) website.

Certificate 12 – Bluefin and Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents and Swordfish and Chilled Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents

Japan requires catch documents following the format of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) or other regional fisheries management organizations certified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in order to import Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*), Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), and southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) from the United States.⁵ For frozen bluefin tuna, catch documents should be submitted to the Japan Fishery Agency (JFA) in advance (known as prior-confirmation⁶), and again at customs clearance. For chilled bluefin tuna, prior-confirmation is not required.

For U.S. exports of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and frozen bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), “statistical documents” certified by NMFS are required. For frozen swordfish and bigeye tuna, the “statistical documents” should be submitted to the JFA in advance (i.e., prior-confirmation), and again for customs clearance. For chilled swordfish, prior-confirmation is not required, and for chilled bigeye tuna, frozen/chilled other tuna species (e.g., yellowfin and albacore), and frozen/chilled other marlin species, neither catch documents nor “statistical documents” are required.

For more information, please see the [JFA website](#) (in Japanese). The JFA also provides [examples](#) of acceptable catch documents and “statistical documents.” For more information about export certification of seafood products, see the [NOAA website](#).

Certificate 13 – CITES Export Permit for Sturgeon Caviar

⁵ NMFS uses the ICCAT electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation ([eBCD](#)) system. International trade permit holders for highly migratory fish species who export or re-export Atlantic bluefin tuna are required to complete all relevant trade documentation in the eBCD system.

⁶ Prior-confirmation for some frozen tuna species is required based on the [Act on Special Measures for Enhancement of the Conservation and Management of Tuna Resources](#) (Japanese only). The Fishery Agency will accept electric prior-confirmation application beginning in January 2019.

When sturgeon caviar of a species included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendices II is imported into Japan, it is necessary to submit a CITES export or re-export permit issued by the exporting country. All sturgeon caviar exiting the United States must be accompanied by a CITES export or re-export permit issued by the Division of Management Authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). In addition, caviar must meet CITES Caviar Universal Labeling requirements. Additional information is available on the [USFWS website](#).

Certificate 14 – Harvest Tag on Oysters for Raw Consumption from FDA-Approved States
Japan allows the import of oysters for raw consumption from Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved States that participate in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) and [Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference \(ISSC\)](#).⁷ For approval, a state government must inspect the “total coliform group” as well as the “fecal coliform” in oyster-growing waters prior to exporting to Japan. The FDA-certified inspection results and a map of the harvest waters must be submitted to MHLW.

The exporter or packer of oysters must also be included on the [Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List \(ICSSL\)](#). An oyster harvest tag must be attached to each individual container including; 1) the oyster variety, 2) the product style⁸, 3) the net weight and quantity, 4) the name and address of the shipper with an ICSSL registration number, 5) the date of harvest, and 6) the harvest area. Please see the special food sanitation standard for oysters for raw consumption on [MHLW’s website](#) (Japanese only). Please also see the NSSP information on the [FDA website](#).

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

See matrix above for attestations required.

Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry

- a. The original should accompany the product at the time of entry for all government certificates;
- b. Government-issued certificates cannot be applied to multiple shipments.
- c. For certificate 1 (but only for frozen fruit and vegetables which are permitted entry by the Japanese government in their fresh form), MAFF accepts a State-issued certificate and manufacturer/exporter’s declaration certifying the temperature of freezing (at least zero degrees Fahrenheit). Plant quarantine official acceptance of this document may be subject to verification. For certificate 14, MHLW accepts the FDA approved State-issued harvest tag for oysters for raw consumption.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

These “certifications” are not government-issued (they are often times submitted by importers), but generally require participation from the exporter in order to be completed:

⁷ The United States and Japan agreed to standardized practices of shellfish sanitation in 1962. Both countries apply the same sanitation practices except that MHLW monitors the “total coliform group”, while FDA monitors “fecal coliform.”

⁸ The style indicates live in shell, fresh or frozen in shell, fresh or frozen half-shell, and fresh or frozen shucked meat.

Certificate 15 –Container and Packaging Requirements under the Food Sanitation Act

This requirement is a result of a 2002 violation in which rice bags contained lead levels violating Japanese regulations. MAFF continues to require importers to provide a document verifying that the packaging materials (such as flexible container bags) were tested and meet the specifications and standards for packaging and containers as described in the [Food Sanitation Act](#). The bags carrying the rice, wheat, or barley must use the same lot of materials tested. There is no specific format for the certification; however, importers usually submit test results from MHLW-registered [Foreign Official Laboratories](#). In addition, importers must verify that shipments meet all testing requirements under the purchase contract.

Certificate 16 – Verification of Legality of Wood Products

Wood Products for Government Procurement -- The Ministry of the Environment implemented the Act on the Promotion of Procuring Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities (the [Green Purchasing Act](#)) to ensure that construction projects funded by the Government of Japan utilize legally harvested forestry products. Therefore, a verification of legality is mandatory. There are three ways to verify the legality of wood products. The first method is to use a third-party forest certification system or chain-of-custody (CoC) forest certification system, such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The second method is to use an industry certification issued by forestry or forest products associations such as [American Hardwood Environmental Profile](#) by the American Hardwood Export Council. The third method is to rely on an individual company to verify the legality of wood products. In order to target Government of Japan procurement, importers must request third-party certificates or documents detailing which methods are used. Additional information about Japan's Green Purchasing Act may be found on the [Japanese Council for Tackling Illegal Logging and Promotion of Goho-wood's website](#).

General Wood Products for Non-Government Use -- On May 20, 2017, the Government of Japan implemented the Act on the Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-Harvested Wood and Wood Products (the [Clean Wood Act](#)). The Clean Wood Act is a voluntary normative standard of conduct and is applied to all Japanese wood-related business entities. However, the Act does not penalize the purchase, possession, transportation or sale of illegally sourced wood products. The Clean Wood Act provides for a voluntary registration system, and registered companies are required to verify the legality of their wood products. In an effort to prove the legality of purchased wood products, Japanese importers or buyers may ask to be provided with certificates and/or documents consistent with the Green Purchasing Act, such as 1) third-party forest and CoC certification, 2) industry certification by forestry or forest products associations, or 3) information derived from individual companies. More information is available in [JA8002](#) and on the [website of the Japan Forestry Agency](#).

Certificate 17 –Legality of Woody Biomass for Power Facilities under the Feed-in Tariff

Japan's Feed-in Tariff (FIT) system includes woody biomass (for additional information, see [JA8093](#) and [JA8019](#)). Woody biomass is further divided into two subcategories—"unutilized wood (domestic material from forest thinning and forest residues)", and "ordinary wood and agricultural residues" which includes imported wood pellets. In order to receive the FIT, power plants must use sustainable sources of biomass. Although there is no specific format to verify sustainability, it is highly recommended to use a third-party CoC forest certification. As forest

certification is not always available, the Forestry Agency publishes a [guideline](#) (in Japanese only) and permits other ways to verify sustainability/legality.

Certificate 18 – Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc.

Importers of all foods and beverages are required to submit the [Notification Form for Importation of Foods](#) to MHLW quarantine stations prior to importation (see Appendix 1). In addition, documents providing information on a manufacturing method, ingredients, additives (including preservatives, coloring, spices and flavorings) are required for submission. Test results for foods and beverages whose [Specifications and Standards for Food, Food additives, etc](#)⁹ are established under the Food Sanitation Act are also required for submission. MHLW accepts test results by MHLW-registered [Foreign Official Laboratories](#). For repeated imports of the same products, submission of some documents may be waived. See <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/1-5.html>

For more information, please refer to the [MHLW Imported Foods Inspection Service](#) website. Apart from export certificates, products imported into Japan must also meet a number of other requirements. Details of these requirements are contained in the 2018 Japan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Report updated each year by FAS/Tokyo, as well as other reports submitted over the course of the year, which can be accessed at <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Please feel free to contact FAS/Tokyo at agtokyo@usda.gov if you have any questions.

⁹ For the latest information, please refer to https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/jigyousya/shokuhin_kikaku/index.html (Japanese only)

Appendix I. Notification For Importation of Foods, etc. (also can be found at

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/1-3.html>

Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Esq.

Name and address of importer (Or name of importing corporation and its address)

Notification Receipt Number	*1	Name		
Classification of Notification	Prior Notification / Planned Import	Address		
Code of Importer		(Telephone Number)		
Name and Code of Country of Production		Registration Number of Importer Responsible for Food Sanitation		
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturer				
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturing Factory				
Name and Code of Port of Loading		Date of Loading	_____(Month) _____(Day) _____(Year)	
Name and Code of Port of Discharge		Date of Arrival	_____(Month) _____(Day) _____(Year)	
Name and Code of Warehouse		Date of Storage	_____(Month) _____(Day) _____(Year)	
		Date of Notification	_____(Month) _____(Day) _____(Year)	
Marks and Numbers of Cargo		Accident Brief Explanation (if Yes)	Yes / No	
Ship Name or Flight Number of Aircraft		Name and Code of Submitter		

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y - N	Sanitary Certificate Number	
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.	
Description of Article						
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)						
Shipped Volume (Weight)				kg		
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as favoring agents are excluded for either case.)	*2
Kind of Package and its Code						*2
Registration Number 1						
Registration Number 2						
Registration Number 3						
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.						
Remarks						Stamp for Receiving Notification

Notes:

*1: Do not write here.

*2: When the article in the cargo includes food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink and regulated by the relevant statutes, describe the names of the substances used. When the article includes manufacturing agents in the additives, excluding favoring agents or food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink, write the names of the agents.

The seal of importer can be substituted by a signature of importer.

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y + N	Sanitary Certificate Number															
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.															
Description of Article																				
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																				
Shipped Volume (Weight)					kg															
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as flavoring agents are excluded for either case.)		*2													
Kind of Package and its Code							*2													
Registration Number 1																				
Registration Number 2																				
Registration Number 3																				
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.																				
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1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y + N	Sanitary Certificate Number															
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.															
Description of Article																				
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																				
Shipped Volume (Weight)					kg															
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as flavoring agents are excluded for either case.)		*2													
Kind of Package and its Code							*2													
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Registration Number 2																				
Registration Number 3																				
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.																				
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