

OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)

Market Reports Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

Japan

The following information is provided only as a guide and should be confirmed with the proper authorities before embarking on any export activities.

Import Tariffs

Tariff duties are assessed on the c.i.f. (cost, insurance and freight) value at ad valorem or specific rates, and, in a few instances, are a combination of both. Tariffs are administered by the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Finance. Goods from the United States are charged WTO rates unless a lesser "temporary" rate exists.

Japan: Tariff Rates on Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

	HS Chapter/Subheading	Tariff Rate Range (%)
Yarn		
-silk	5003-5006	0 - 6.9
-wool	5105-5110	0 - 2.7
-cotton	5204-5207	1.9 - 5.6*
-other vegetable fiber	5306-5308	0 - 7.9
-man-made fiber	5401-5406/5501-5511	0 - 6.6
Woven Fabric		
-silk	5007	10 - 12.5
-wool	5111-5113	5.3 - 7.9*
-cotton	5208-5212	3.7 - 7.4*
-other vegetable fiber	5309-5311	2.5 - 10
-man-made fiber	5407-5408/5512-5516	4 - 10
Knit Fabric	60	4 - 9.8
Non Woven Fabric	5603	0 - 4.3
Industrial Fabric	59	2.8 - 6.6
Apparel	61-62	4.4 - 12.8
Home Furnishings including: bed, bath, kitchen linens, etc.	63	0 - 10.9
Carpet	57	0 - 8.4
Footwear	64**	3.4 - 30*
Travel Goods	4202	2.7 - 16

* Some products may be subject to specific per unit tariffs.

** Certain leather footwear (HS 6403-6405) is subject to the Tariff Quota (TQ) system. That is, a lower tariff rate (primary rate) is assessed on import quantities within the limits of the annual tariff quota and a higher rate (secondary rate) is assessed on import quantities in excess of the tariff quota.

To return to the Foreign Tariff Information webpage, click [here](#).

Certificate of origin--Products made from certain types of leather or animal products may require a certificate of origin issued by an agency of the government of the exporting country and an import authorization issued by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry showing that importation of the product is not prohibited. See the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora website](#) for more details.

For information on import documentation and other requirements see, [JETRO's Standards and Regulations webpage](#): see:

[Handbook for Industrial Products Import Regulations 2009](#)

raw silk and silk fabric, synthetic fiber, knit and woven fabrics, textile fibers

[Handbook for Consumer Products Import Regulations 2010](#)

footwear, travel goods (bags), carpet

For information on local customs requirements and documentation, see:

- [Japan Customs](#)
- [FAQ - Japan Customs](#)

Standards

The [Japan Industrial Standards Committee - JISC](#) plays a central role in the establishment and maintenance of Japan Industrial Standards (JIS). Many domestic products and imported products alike are subject to product testing and cannot be sold in Japan without certification of compliance with prescribed standards. Some standards are mandatory and some are voluntary. JIS standards can be found on the [Japan Standards Association website](#).

Flame retardant regulations--The Fire Service Law specifies that some textile products such as carpeting and curtains installed in most commercial building must comply with flame retardant regulations. Products conforming to the standards must have flame-retardant labels and those without such labels may not be sold as flame-retardant products. The [Japan Fire Retardant Association](#) publishes English language information on the Japanese Flame Retardant Law and its testing methods.

Cords and drawstrings on children's clothing--[JIS L4129 - Safety of Children's Clothing-Cords and Drawstrings on Children's Clothing-Specification](#) is a voluntary safety standard. The JIS requires suppliers to meet the standards for all clothing with cords or drawstrings designed for children under 13 years of age.

Hazardous Substances

In Japan, textile products are regulated under the "Act on Control of Household Products Containing Harmful Substances, Act No. 112 of 1973". The law bans various substances for use in textile products, including the following:

- Organomercury compounds
- Formaldehyde (prohibited in baby clothes age 0-24 months)
- Tris (1-Aziridiny) phosphine oxide
- Dieldrin
- Tris (2,3-Dibromophyl) phosphate
- Triphenyltin compounds
- Bis (2,3-Dibromophyl) phosphate
- 4, 6-Dichloro-7-(2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxy)
- Trifluoromethylbenzimidazole
- Azo dyes

Voluntary industry standards, "Guidelines for Nonuse of Harmful Substances for Textiles and Clothing" provide recommended standards to further eliminate harmful substances. Leather goods (including fur goods) are regulated, in addition to textile products, under the regulations on azo dyes. Leather (and fur) that are used as subsidiary materials of textile products are subject to the guidelines. See the [Japanese Textile Federation - JTF guidelines](#) for further information.

Tris - Products containing [tris \(i-aziridiny\) phosphineoxide \(APO\)](#) in any quantity are banned, and the use of more than 30 ppm of dieldrin is prohibited in textile goods for household use (clothes, carpets, bedding, etc.) and knitting wool. Use of the fire retardant tris (2,3 dibromopropyl) phosphate and triphenyltin compounds in certain household products including sleepwear, bedding, curtains, carpets, babywear, underwear, gloves, hosiery, household adhesives, and paint and wax shoe polish is prohibited under the household Commodities Regulations Law.

Formaldehyde in building materials--U.S. exporters of building materials to Japan, including wall covering manufacturers, can receive formaldehyde certification in the United States testing firms that have been approved by Japan's [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation - MLIT](#), to certify building materials as being compliant with MLIT's "sick house" regulations.

For further information on these regulations, see the [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare](#).

See the Japan External Trade Organization - [JETRO's Standards and Regulations webpage](#) for the following publications:

- [Handbook for Industrial Products Import Regulations 2009](#)
- [Handbook for Consumer Products Import Regulations 2010](#)

Local standards organization and other resources:

- [Japan Standards Association -JAS](#)
- [Japan Industrial Standards Committee - JISC](#)
- [Japan External Trade Organization - JETRO](#)
- [Japan Quality Assurance Association - JQA](#)
- [Japan Textile Federation - JTF](#)

Labeling

The [Ministry of Economy and International Trade and Industry - METI](#) has specific requirements regarding the type of information required on a label, which includes the following:

- Type of fabric and textile yarn content, with percentage figures for lining, thread, material, etc
- Care and washing instructions
- Name of manufacturer/supplier or officially registered number with – METI

Labeling generally must be in Japanese. Under the Household Products Quality Labeling Law - [Textile Goods Quality Labeling Regulations \(Public Notice of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry No. 558 of October 1, 1997\)](#), most apparel items and certain other textile products, including pile rugs, curtains, blankets, and bedspreads, require labeling of their fabric component as well as instructions for care (washing, bleaching, laundering, etc.). Travel goods made of cowhide, horsehide, pigskin, sheepskin or goatskin must be labeled showing the type of leather, care and storing methods,

and name and address or telephone number of the party responsible for labeling. For more information, see the [Consumer Affairs Agency \(CAA\) website](#). See also the [Household Goods Quality Labeling Act](#) and the [Japanese Household Goods Quality Labeling Handbook \(October 2017\)](#).

Effective December 1, 2016, JIS L0001-Care Labeling Code Using Symbols, replaced JIS L0217 and incorporated the use of the ISO international care labeling system (ISO 3758). See the Japanese Standards Association [JSA website](#) for a booklet in English on care labeling, as well as other textile-related standards. Also, for further reference, see the [Intertek brochure on care labeling](#) (Intertek is a private quality assurance provider).

The name of the country of origin is required on all domestic and imported textile and apparel products. The country of origin labeling standard, established by the [Japanese Fair Trade Commission](#), is based on provisions of the Law Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representation. Products with vague, confusing or misleading labeling regarding the country of origin may not be imported into Japan.

Labeling of flammability characteristics is required for such items as pile rugs, curtains, and knitted and lace cloth. All topcoats, overcoats, spring coats, and raincoats, etc., must be labeled in Japanese to show whether they are water repellant. Normally, these labels will be prepared by the Japanese importer. Coats without the label cannot be designated as raincoats.

Because certain regulations apply specifically to individual products, it is important to work with a prospective agent/importer to ensure your product meets the requirements, if applicable. In general, most labeling laws are not required at the customs clearance stage, but at the point of sale. Consequently, it is most common for Japanese importers to affix a label before or after clearing customs.

Information on the Japanese sizing system for apparel is available on the [JSA website](#). Relevant sizing publications are listed below.

- JIS L0103 General Rule on Sizing Systems and Designation for Clothes
- JIS L4001 Sizing System for Infant's Garments
- JIS L4002 Sizing System for Boys' Garments
- JIS L4003 Sizing System for Girls' Garments
- JIS L4004 Sizing System for Men's Garments
- JIS L4005 Sizing System for Women's Garments
- JIS L4006 Sizing System for Foundation Garments
- JIS L4007 Sizing System for Hosiery
- JIS L4114 Sizing System for Blouses
- JIS L4117 Sizing System for Dresses, Skirts

See also, [JETRO's Standards and Regulations webpage](#)

- [Handbook for Industrial Products Import Regulations 2009](#)
- [Handbook for Consumer Products Import Regulations 2010](#)

Market Information

- [Japan External Trade Organization - JETRO](#)
- [Japan Textile Importers Association](#)
- [Japan Textile Federation - JTF](#)

For additional information on exporting textiles, apparel, footwear and travel goods, click [here](#).

[Return to Export Market Reports](#)