Clearspring
Organic and Traditional Foods

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Dear Valued Customer,

We appreciate the continuing need for reassurance regarding our Japanese imports since the earthquake and nuclear incident affecting northern Japan on March 11th, 2011. We have been monitoring developments closely and are pleased to assure you that we maintain full confidence in the safety of our products. This is based on:

1) Compliance with EU legislation (Regulation EC297/2011 and amendments)

- Radioactivity testing prior to export from Japan:

The most recent amendment to the EU regulation (1371/2011 published on 21st December 2011) has removed the requirement to analyze for iodine-131 as this radionuclide is no longer observed in feed, food or the environment. Pre-departure testing for caesium-134 and caesium-137 continues to be a requirement for products originating from 11 prefectures. The radiation limits for caesium (Cs-134 and Cs-137) remains unchanged at 500 Bq/kg (1).

- Container screening and random checks upon arrival in the EU:

In addition to the fact that all at-risk food products exported into the EU from Japan have to be tested prior to export, EU port authorities screen all containers upon arrival for surface contamination, to check it falls below the threshold level of 0.2 microSv/h, advised by the European Commission (2).

Moreover, since the products we import from Japan are cleared in the Netherlands, the Dutch authorities carry out random controls on imports as mandated by the EC351/2011 directive. Findings above 5 Bq/kg are flagged.

ALL TESTING CARRIED OUT ON OUR PRODUCTS SO FAR HAVE SHOWN LEVELS BELOW DETECTION LIMITS OF 5 AND 50Bq/kg (depending on the laboratory

2) Our own verification checks on receiving the goods

All the information we have received indicates that the radioactive risk of Japanese food imports is low. As an additional precaution we are contracting the services of a German laboratory specializing in radioactivity testing, utilizing germanium gamma spectrometry system, to analyze products that are particularly at risk. These include: sea vegetables, tea, shiitake and ume products. Certificates of analysis are available to our customers upon request.

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3) Sourcing from suppliers who are committed to food safety, above and beyond legislative requirements

The radioactivity levels in the product groups considered to be most at risk – sea vegetables, tea, shiitake, and ume products – will be closely monitored even if they originate from areas well away from the nuclear reactor. In cases where food safety was called into question, we have found alternative suppliers to enable continued supply of products that meet our high safety and quality standards.

Some producers of items not considered to be at risk have taken the initiative to start conducting their own testing. We are very grateful for their cooperation and commitment to providing this extra assurance.

We hope the above addresses any concerns you may have. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Maria Furugori
Product Quality & Development Manager

References:

(1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:097:0020:0023:EN:PDF

(2) http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/emergencypreparedness/140411_info_msg.pdf