

OUTLINE of the INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ACT

Objectives

The objectives of this act are to regulate various actions such as raising, planting, storing, carrying and importing invasive alien species (IAS) in addition to mitigating IAS that are already existing in Japan, and thus to contribute to preventing damages against biodiversity, human safety, or agriculture in Japan. IAS do not include living modified organisms in this Act.

Official Announcement of the Basic Policy by the Japanese Cabinet

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Alien species designated in the Cabinet Ordinance of the Act that pose risks to cause damages to biodiversity, human safety, or agriculture in Japan

Ban of various actions with regard to IAS

- Actions of raising, planting, storing, or carrying IAS in Japan are to be prohibited without permission from the competent ministers, except for the actions being categorized in specific occasions that will publicly be announced by the ordinance of this Act.
- Various actions such as importing or transferring IAS are to be prohibited without the permission described above. Discarding IAS is prohibited under any condition.

Uncategorized Alien Species (UAS)

Alien Species designated in the ministerial ordinance of this Act that have the possibility to be categorized as IAS through detailed investigation

Restriction on importation

- UAS need the detailed investigation by the Japanese government in order to be allowed to be imported into Japan.
- The period for deciding the categorization shall be within six months from requests by importers or exporters of UAS into Japan.

Other Alien Species

No restriction

Mitigation

Competent ministers and other interest groups such as local governments shall take some measures for the mitigation of IAS.

Other measures

Obligation to indicate species' names as part of an importation procedure, provisions for penalties and interim measures, and so forth

Investigation by the competent ministers

With risks

Without risks

New scientific knowledge