

**Q** When will the new labelling of the countries of origin of ingredients start?

**A** The labelling system started on September 1, 2017, which requires food manufacturers to list the countries of origin of ingredients. However, there is a grace period for preparation by food manufacturers until March 31, 2022. The countries of origin will be listed for products as they become ready in a gradual manner.

**Q** Are the countries of origin listed for foods served at restaurants or prepared foods?

**A** For foods that are sold where they are prepared, such as foods served at restaurants and prepared foods, it is not mandatory to list the countries of origin of ingredients because it is possible to check with the people who prepared the food on the spot.

**Q** Aren't the countries of origin of ingredients other than the most predominant ingredient listed?

**A** It is not mandatory to list the countries of origin of ingredients other than the most predominant ingredient. However, it is desirable to list them for the second and subsequent ingredients as a voluntary effort by food manufacturers, etc.

**Q** Are the countries of origin of ingredients listed for imported processed foods?

**A** It is not mandatory to list the countries of origin of ingredients for imported processed foods. Currently, for imported processed foods, "Country of origin" that indicates the country from which the product was imported is listed.

**Q** Why is it necessary to list "other(s)", "import", and/or "import or domestic"?

**A** These types of labelling are allowed because the country of origin labelling in descending order by weight is difficult to implement for food manufacturers for some ingredients due to the need for frequent changeover of packaging, which could waste a large amount of materials.

**Q** Who is responsible for checking whether labelling is appropriate? And how do they check it?

**A** National public officials from the Consumer Affairs Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as well as officials from local public bodies of prefectures and ordinance-designated cities conduct on-the-spot inspections of food manufacturers and supermarkets to check food labelling. If labelling is not appropriate, they offer guidance for improvement.

**Q** When I don't understand the meaning of a label, who can I contact?

**A** First, please contact the customer call center of the food manufacturer listed on the product. For general inquiries about labelling, please contact the Consumer Affairs Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Regional Agricultural Administration Offices, Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center, or your local prefecture.

#### Contact Information

- Food Labelling Division, Consumer Affairs Agency  
+81-3-3507-8800(switchboard)  
[http://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food\\_labeling/](http://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food_labeling/)
- Consumer Affairs and Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education) Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
+81-3-3502-7804

#### Did you know?

Starting on September 1, 2017\*

## Countries of origin of ingredients will be listed for all processed foods!

- You can make a product choice based on the country of origin -

\* There is a grace period for preparation by food manufacturers until March 31, 2022.



Name: Vienna sausage  
Ingredients: Pork (USA, domestic, Denmark), lard, hydrolyzed protein, reduced sugar syrup, salt, spice/seasoning (amino acid, etc.), phosphates (Na, K), ...  
Net weight: 150 g  
Best-Before: 30.9.30  
Storage conditions: Store at 10°C or below.  
Manufacturer: OO CO., Ltd.  
O-O-O Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

**Q** What is the "country of origin labelling" system?

**A** The "country of origin labelling" system requires listing of the countries of origin of the ingredients of processed foods manufactured domestically on the product label.  
If the ingredient requiring labelling is a fresh food, its country of origin is listed. If it is a processed food, its country of manufacture is listed.

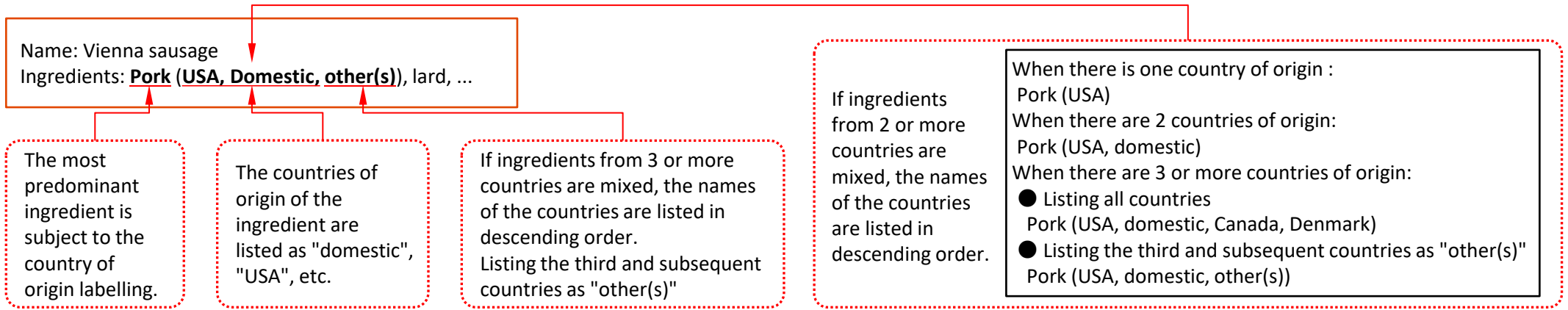


Consumer Affairs Agency

# NEW "country of origin labelling" system Q & A

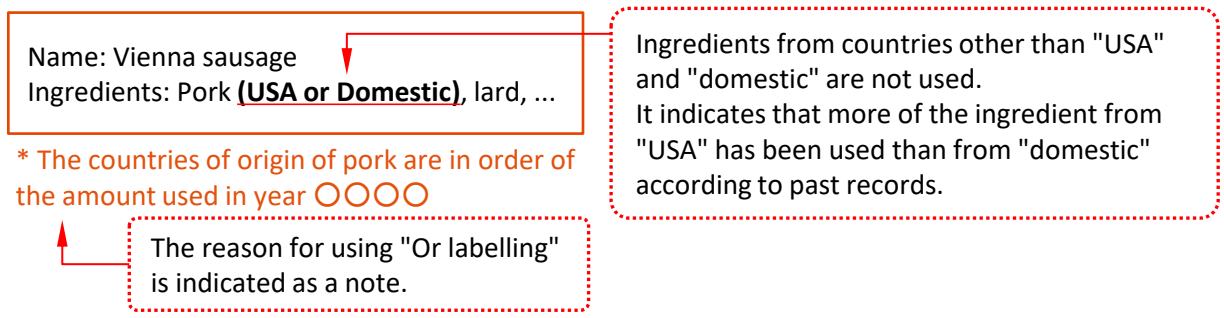
Q What does actual labelling look like?

A The general rule is the "country of origin labelling in descending order by weight".



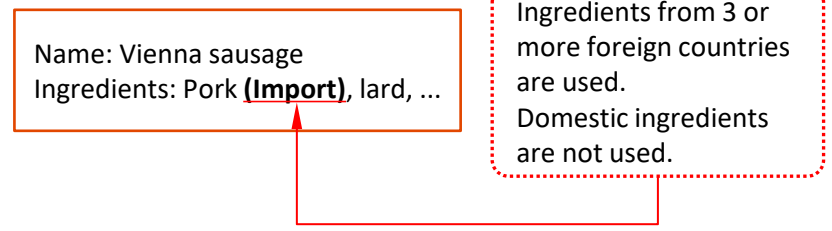
Q What does "USA or domestic" mean?

A The general rule is the "country of origin labelling in descending order by weight".



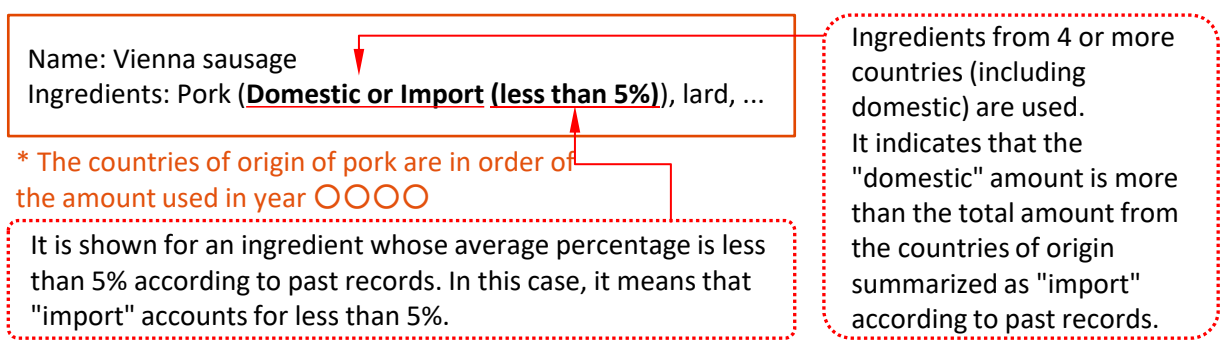
Q What does "import" mean?

A The general rule is the "country of origin labelling in descending order by weight".



Q What does "domestic or import" mean?

A The general rule is the "country of origin labelling in descending order by weight".



Q What does "made in" mean?

A The general rule is the "country of origin labelling in descending order by weight".

