

「農業技能測定試験」試験実施要領
Guidelines for conducting “Agriculture Skill Assessment Test”

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(Revised: April 2020)

National Chamber of Agriculture

In accordance with the “Policies on the Tests Relating to ‘Specified Skilled Worker’” (Immigration Services Agency of Japan, January 30, 2020) (hereinafter referred to “Test Policy”) stipulated based on 3(1)v and (2)iii of the “Basic Policy on Operation of the System of the Status of Residence of Specified Skilled Worker” (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2018), in order to ensure proper implementation of the skill assessment test pertaining to the specified skilled worker(i) in the agricultural field (hereinafter referred to as “Agriculture Skill Assessment Test”, the guidelines for the Agriculture Skill Assessment Test shall be established as follows.

1 The outline of the test

(1) Implementing body

National Chamber of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the “NCA”).

(2) Language

The examination shall basically be conducted in the local language of an implementing country and Japanese.

(3) Implementation method

A computer-based testing (CBT) system or a written test system^(Note) shall be used.

(Note) Questions are delivered using computers at a test center, and examinees give answers on the screen in a booth based on the questions displayed on the computer screen and the sound played on the headphones.

(4) Number of times, timing, and location of conducting the test in the business year

The number of times, timing, and location of conducting the test shall be determined by the NCA after coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

(5) Person qualified to the test

The examinee must be 17 years of age or older on the test date. In addition, a person who takes the test in Japan is eligible to be granted residency status. However, this excludes those who do not have a passport issued by a foreign government or a local

authorized organization which is specified by notice of the Justice Minister for the purpose of cooperation in the smooth enforcement of a written deportation order.

(6) Precautions for conducting the test

- (a) Matters necessary to apply for the test such as test date, venue, reservation period, fee, and payment method shall be posted on the dedicated website operated by the NCA or a subcontractor specified in 2(2) below (hereinafter referred to as “dedicated website”). Applicants are basically required to apply for the test by making reservation through the dedicated website.
- (b) In overseas countries, the test shall be conducted in compliance with local relevant laws and regulations.
- (c) The Test Policy stipulates that passing the examination does not guarantee that the residency status of “Specified Skilled Worker” will be granted, or in a case where an application for issuance of a certificate of eligibility or a change of status of residence is made for a person who has passed the examination, it does not necessarily mean he or she will be granted a certificate of eligibility or the permission of a change of status of residence. In addition, even if a certificate of eligibility is issued, a visa application shall be separately reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and issuance of the visa is not guaranteed. All the above information is to be included in examination guidelines.

(7) Passing status notification method

Within 5 business days after the test, examinees can get on the dedicated website the information such as the name of the examinee, the name and date of the examination, the examinee's face photo, the total score, and the passing status in the form of a score report.

2 Implementation system

(1) Question preparation system

In order to prepare the questions, the NCA establishes an expert panel consisting of experts on agricultural management and technology, higher education for international students, and other fields (hereinafter referred to as the "panel") and subcommittees on crop farming, livestock farming, and Japanese language.

The subcommittees prepare a draft of questions based on 3 through 5 specified in this guideline, and finalize the questions after getting confirmation from the panel.

(2) Implementation system

The NCA implements the Skill Assessment Test using questions described in (1) above. For the implementation of the test, part of work can be outsourced to a private business operator, etc. with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture.

(3) System to follow up the proper operation of the test

- The NCA shall report the test status to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) after the test, and receive instruction and supervision as necessary.
- The NCA shall verify the effectiveness of the program based on the test results and the implementation status of the program at the panel once a year.
- The NCA can take actions against examinees who have committed wrongdoing, such as by canceling the test result (including results in the past) of the examinee.

3 Test level

The level which about 70% of examinees with hands-on experience of 3 years or more in Japan can pass (the same level as the test for evaluating agricultural technical

interns (professional) in the technical intern training of crop farming and livestock farming)

4 Test subject

The test consists of academic examination and practical skill examination (including confirmation of Japanese language abilities necessary for duties), and covers the following subjects. Also, the test takes 60 minutes, and contains about 70 questions (including questions which are not subject to scoring but are used for analyzing the rate of correct answers, etc.).

(1) Overall knowledge of crop farming

① Academic subject

- General crop farming
- Health and safety
- Varieties and characteristics of cultivated crops
- Cultivation environment (facilities, equipment, materials, and machinery)
- Cultivation method and management
- Control of pests and weeds
- Harvest, adjustment, storage, shipment, etc.

② Practical skill (judgement based on illustrations and photographs)

- Observation of soil
- Handling of fertilizers and agrochemicals
- Handling of seeds
- Environmental management, and handling of materials, equipment, and machinery
- Works regarding cultivation
- Health and safety, etc.

③ Japanese language

- Listening of the details of farm work instructed in Japanese

(2) Overall knowledge of livestock farming

① Academic subject

- General livestock farming
- Health and safety
- Breed

- Breeding and physiology
- Feeding management, etc.
- ② Practical skill (judgement based on illustrations and photographs)
 - Handling of individuals
 - Observation of individuals
 - Feeding management and handling of instruments
 - Handling of products
 - Health and safety, etc.
- ③ Japanese language
 - Listening of the details of farm work instructed in Japanese

5. Criteria for passing the examination

The total score must be over the criterion reference score set by the NCA.

6. Measures to prevent dishonesty during the test

The test shall be conducted properly by allocating proper number of test proctors according to the number of examinees.

Various measures shall be taken to prevent dishonesty, such as training for test proctors, thorough management of the questions, prevention of identity fraud by checking examinees' identity with passports, etc., thorough management of personal digital assistance devices with communication functions including smartphones.

7. Release of the results

For each month of the implementation, the overview of the test such as the date and venue, the number of examinees, and the rate of examinees reaching the reference score, and other data on the results shall be released on the website operated by the NCA.

In addition, after the end of each business year, the report on the implementation status of the tests (including the details and the overview of the results) shall be submitted to the Justice Ministry without delay, and released after getting confirmation from the Justice Ministry.

8. Other necessary matters

(1) Term of validity of the score report

The score report is valid for 10 years from the implementation date. However, the

data of test results shall be stored at the NCA for 5 years.

(2) Reissuance of the score report

Examinees can get the score report from the dedicated website at any time during the period of storing the data of test results specified in 8(1) above.

(3) Protection of personal information

The NCA shall appropriately handle the personal information obtained upon the preparation and implementation of the Agriculture Skill Assessment Test in accordance with relevant regulations.