

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

April 4, 2011

Policy Planning and Communication Division,  
Standards and Evaluation Division,  
Inspection and Safety Division,  
Department of Food Safety

To Press and who may concern,

The handling of provisional regulation values related to radioactive materials present in food

·In today's press conference of the chief cabinet secretary, the overview of (1) the handling of the provisional regulation values related to radioactive materials present in food, and (2) concepts of establishing and cancelling items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies have been announced as the countermeasures policies of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters.

·In response, the MHLW has announced what has been decided upon consultation with relevant ministries regarding (1) the handling of provisional regulation values related to radioactive materials present in food and (2) the inspection planning of the local governments.

1. See Attachment 1 for the handling of the provisional regulation values related to radioactive materials present in food upon receiving the emergency report of the Food Safety Commission.
2. See Attachment 2 for the inspection planning of the local governments. In the attachment, the concepts of establishing and cancelling items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies as the countermeasure policy of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters as reference.
3. See Attachment 3 for securing equipment for inspection related to radioactive materials present in food based on the regulations of the Food Sanitation Act. The list of organizations related to the MHLW capable of conducting inspections related to radioactive materials in food has been attached as reference.
4. See reference materials for the status of implementation of inspections related to radioactive materials present in food (from March 19 to April 3, 2011).

April 4, 2011

Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare

The handling of provisional regulation values related to radioactive materials present in food, upon receiving the emergency report of the Food Safety Commission

· Since March 17, the “Indices relating to limits on food and drinking ingestion” in the “Disaster prevention countermeasures of the nuclear power plants, etc.” (Nuclear Safety Commission, June 1980) shall be adopted as the provisional regulation values and foods which exceed these levels shall be deemed to be regulated under Article 6 Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act (Law no. 233 issued in 1947). Measures have been taken to ensure that such food is not supplied for human consumption.

· Considering that the emission of radioactive materials with the occurrence of the nuclear emergency situations that our country has ever experienced are not yet restored to a normal state, the current provisional regulation values are maintained for the time being.

· The concept has been reported to the Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Council, Food Sanitation Subcommittee in the MHLW, following the views of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters based on the “Emergency measures related to radioactive materials” (issued by the Food Safety Commission in March, 2011) and the advice of the Nuclear Safety Commission.

· “The remarks related to radioactive materials present in food” compiled in the Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Council, Food Sanitation Subcommittee held today are as in attachments.

April 4, 2011

Provisional remarks on radioactive materials present in food

Food Sanitation Subcommittee

Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council

Following the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant of the Tokyo Electric Power Company on March 11, 2011, radiation was detected in its surrounding environment. Starting March 17, from the viewpoint of preventing sanitation hazards resulting from eating and drinking, and thereby protect citizen's good health, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has decided to tentatively use the "Indices relating to limits on food and drink ingestion" indicated by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan as provisional regulation values. Foods which exceed these levels shall be deemed to be regulated by Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act and measures have been taken to ensure that such foods are not supplied to the public to eat.

On March 20, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare asked for an opinion of the chairperson of the Food Safety Commission of Japan on the matter of "setting indexes for radioactive substances present in food." In response, on March 29, the chairperson issued the "emergency report on radioactive materials" (hereafter referred to as the "emergency report").

Furthermore, on April 1, in light of the "emergency report" and the Nuclear Safety Commission's advice, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters expressed its opinion that, for the meantime, it was appropriate to maintain the current provisional regulation values.

We have never experienced the current situations in our Japanese history. The Subcommittee is of the view that the MHLW's measures to urgently establish the provisional regulation values based on Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act was appropriate.

In the "emergency report," the Food Safety Commission of Japan mentions that the equivalent dose and effective dose of radioactive substance that the provisional regulation values are based should not be changed. It also says that the Commission will continue to "conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health within the scope that the commission is consulted on in the future". The view of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, in light of the advice of the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan, is that it is appropriate to maintain the current provisional regulation values for the time being, considering that the emission of radioactive substances has not been restored to its normal state. Taking into consideration of the above, the Subcommittee is of the view that the provisional regulation values should be maintained under the present circumstances.

The Food Safety Commission has indicated the followings regarding its review: "The emergency report has been compiled under urgent circumstances and that there is still a need to conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health in the future within the scope that the Committee is consulted on." "Various problems remain to be considered including the carcinogen risk which has not yet been reviewed in detail. Especially in regard to uranium and plutonium, it is also necessary to conduct an assessment by considering actual amount of exposure to these substances, conduct an assessment as genotoxic carcinogen in detail, and/or consider nuclide disposition." Accordingly, the subcommittee will compile its remarks again as the Food Safety Commission continues to conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health in the future.

For the MHLW, the Subcommittee asks the organization to make efforts in (1) strengthening the inspection and monitoring systems, (2) preparing detail regulations, and (3) enhancing the content and opportunity on risk communication with the public, in order to enhance the safety and a sense of security among the public in regard to the health effects of radioactive materials.

Also, the Subcommittee expects all relevant organizations, including relevant ministries and local governments, to perform its duty in enhancing the safety of the nation and a sense of security regarding the health effects of radioactive materials by mutually cooperating and putting forth every effort.

## Attachment 2

April 4, 2011

### The inspection planning of the local government

#### 1. Basic concepts

Additional requirements have been set out in the “Manual on radiation measurement of food in emergency situations.” (March 2002)

#### 2. Local governments covered in the planning

Local governments instructed by the prime minister (Fukushima prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture, Tochigi prefecture, and Gunma prefecture) and the adjacent local governments (Miyagi prefecture, Yamagata prefecture, Niigata prefecture, Nagano prefecture, Saitama prefecture, and Chiba prefecture) and the local government producing food exceeding the prospective regulation values (Tokyo)

#### 3. Selection of the items inspected

##### (1) Results of inspections conducted so far

Because the distance from the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant is considered to influence the conditions of fallout the most, the results are sorted out by prefecture (excluding Fukushima prefecture).

##### A. Vegetables (iodine-131)

###### (a) Average or median values exceeding 1,000Bq/kg

Spinach (Ibaraki prefecture, Tochigi prefecture, and Chiba prefecture), Parsley (Ibaraki prefecture, Chiba prefecture), Garland chrysanthemum (Tochigi prefecture, Chiba prefecture), Kakina (Tochigi prefecture), Sanchu asian lettuce (Chiba prefecture), Qing-geng-cai (Chiba prefecture), and Celery (Chiba prefecture)

###### (b) Average or median values are between 500Bq/kg and 1,000Bq/kg

Spinach (Kanagawa prefecture, Saitama prefecture, Gunma prefecture), Sunny lettuce (Ibaraki prefecture), Mizuna (Chiba prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture), Komatsuna (Chiba prefecture, Tokyo, Saitama prefecture, Kanagawa prefecture), Kakina (Gunma prefecture), Leek (Green onions) (Chiba prefecture), and Garland chrysanthemum (Gunma prefecture)

##### B. Milk (iodine-131)

Average or median values are above 500Bq/kg

Raw milk (Ibaraki prefecture)

Notes) Cases in which sum of cesium-134 and -137 exceed the provisional regulation values.

Parsley (Ibaraki prefecture, 2,110Bq/kg), Spinach (Ibaraki prefecture, 1,931Bq/kg), Komatsuna (Tokyo, 890Bq/kg), Spinach (Tochigi prefecture, 790Bq/kg), Kakina (Gunma prefecture, 555Bq/kg), Mizuna (Ibaraki prefecture, 540Bq/kg)

(2) Items used as indexes (food items checked with a priority)

- a. Spinach, Garland chrysanthemum, Kakina, Mizuna, Komatsuna (those grown in garden farming are selected with a priority)
- b. Milk
- c. Other items separately instructed by the government

(3) Items to be inspected other than the above

- a. Main agricultural products for which the situation of production is taken into account
- b. Food items distributed in the marketplace (whose information on producers are known)
- c. Items separately instructed by the government based on the situation of environmental monitoring (e.g. fishery product in certain sea areas)

(4) Frequency of inspection

About once per week (days of the week to be planned in advance). However, in case radioactive substances exceeding or close to the provisional regulation values are detected, the government may instruct on the number of inspections to be conducted.

(5) Areas of inspection

For agricultural products, the local governments divide prefectural areas into appropriate districts. In order to understand the situation of the spread over the area, samples are taken in a number of municipalities per relevant area which is appropriately divided by the local governments.

4. Others

Regarding the contents above, the government will separately give instructions to the local governments as needed.

## <Reference>

Concepts of inspection planning and the establishment and cancellation of items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies

The Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters

### I. Purpose

Two weeks have passed since the provisional regulation values for radioactive materials were established based on the Food Sanitation Act (Law No. 233 issued in 1947). The number of cases for which inspection was conducted has exceeded 900 cases. Based on the current knowledge, the inspection planning to properly judge the necessity for applying restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods, the judgment criteria on the necessity for applying restriction of distribution and/or consumption based on the inspection results, and the cancellation of the restriction of distribution and/or consumption are rearranged.

Moreover, the system for implementing the inspection of radioactive materials at the local governments will be reviewed as needed, and the relevant ministries consider securing inspection systems in the medium- and long- term.

### II. The inspection planning of the local government

#### 1. Basic concepts

Additional requirements have been set out in the “Manual on radiation measurement of food in emergency situations.” (March 2002)

#### 2. Local governments covered in the planning

Local governments instructed by the prime minister (Fukushima prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture, Tochigi prefecture, and Gunma prefecture) and the adjacent local governments (Miyagi prefecture, Yamagata prefecture, Niigata prefecture, Nagano prefecture, Saitama prefecture, and Chiba prefecture) and the local government producing food exceeding the provisional regulation values (Tokyo)

#### 3. Selection of the items inspected

##### (1) Results of inspections conducted so far

Because the distance from the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant is considered to influence the conditions of fallout the most, the results are sorted out by prefecture (excluding Fukushima prefecture).

A. Vegetables (iodine-131)

(a) Average or median values exceeding 1,000Bq/kg

Spinach (Ibaraki prefecture, Tochigi prefecture, and Chiba prefecture), Parsley (Ibaraki prefecture, Chiba prefecture), Garland chrysanthemum (Tochigi prefecture, Chiba prefecture), Kakina (Tochigi prefecture), Sanchu asian lettuce (Chiba prefecture), Qing-geng-cai (Chiba prefecture), and Celery (Chiba prefecture)

(b) Average or median values are between 500Bq/kg and 1,000Bq/kg

Spinach (Kanagawa prefecture, Saitama prefecture, Gunma prefecture), Sunny lettuce (Ibaraki prefecture), Mizuna (Chiba prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture), Komatsuna (Chiba prefecture, Tokyo, Saitama prefecture, Kanagawa prefecture), Kakina (Gunma prefecture), Leek (Green onions) (Chiba prefecture), and Garland chrysanthemum (Gunma prefecture)

B. Milk (iodine-131)

(a) Average or median values are above 500Bq/kg

Raw milk (Ibaraki prefecture)

Notes) Cases in which sum of cesium-134 and -137 exceed the provisional regulation values.

Parsley (Ibaraki prefecture, 2,110Bq/kg), Spinach (Ibaraki prefecture, 1,931Bq/kg), Komatsuna (Tokyo, 890Bq/kg), Spinach (Tochigi prefecture, 790Bq/kg), Kakina (Gunma prefecture, 555Bq/kg), Mizuna (Ibaraki prefecture, 540Bq/kg)

(2) Items used as indexes (food items checked with a priority)

- a. Spinach, Garland chrysanthemum, Kakina, Mizuna, Komatsuna (those grown in garden farming are selected with a priority)
- b. Milk
- c. Other items separately instructed by the government

(3) Items to be inspected other than the above

- a. Main agricultural products for which the situation of production is taken into account
- b. Food items distributed in the marketplace (whose information on producers are known)
- c. Items separately instructed by the government based on the situation of environmental monitoring (e.g. fishery product in certain sea areas)

(4) Frequency of inspection



About once per week (days of the week to be planned in advance). However, in case radioactive substances exceeding or close to the provisional regulation values are detected, the government may instruct on the number of inspections to be conducted.

(5) Areas of inspection

For agricultural products, the local governments divide prefectural areas into appropriate districts. In order to understand the situation of the spread over the area, samples are taken in a number of municipalities per relevant area which is appropriately divided by the local governments.

III. The requirements for establishing items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies by the government
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1. As for the items exceeding the provisional regulation values, if it is considered that production areas spread, areas and items are covered.
2. As for the areas, the policy will be on the prefectural basis, taking into consideration of the duty to label production areas in the JAS regulation. However, if the management by prefectures and municipalities are possible, the prefecture will be divided into multiple blocks.
3. As for the items, they will be considered on an individual food item basis in the light of the data obtained so far.
4. Regarding the review of establishing restriction, inspection results are summed up every week, and the applicability of the requirements is judged in a comprehensive manner. As necessary, an instruction will be given for additional inspections.
  - As for items exceeding the provisional regulation values, if the regional spread is unclear, the surrounding areas will be inspected and the judgment will be made on the necessity of restriction of distribution.
  - As for items for which a significantly high concentration value is detected, restriction of consumption is promptly set irrespective of the number of samples of relevant items.

IV. The requirements for cancelling items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies by the government
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- The cancellation will be based on the application of the relevant local government.
1. Areas in which cancellation applies

The prefectures are divided into multiple districts in the light of the actual conditions of the collection of shipments.

## 2. Judgment criteria of inspection results

As a general rule, inspections will be conducted every week by multiple municipalities per relevant districts, and the 3 values consecutively obtained fall below the provisional regulation values (Foods produced in municipalities which have shown values exceeding the provisional regulation values are definitely inspected. For the other municipalities, inspections will not be performed in the same municipalities in principle).

As for the decision on cancellation, the situation of an accident at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant will be considered.

Note) With the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, the inspections regularly implemented by establishing inspection points will continue.

## 3. Inspections after cancellation

While the emission of radioactive materials at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant, the same inspection as in the above 2 will be performed. In case when the provisional regulation values exceeds, necessary measures will be taken.

## 4. Handling per individual items

### A. Vegetables

Attachment 1

### B. Milk

Attachment 2

## V. Other

Regarding the contents above, the government will separately give instructions to the local governments as needed.

## Vegetables

### 1. Areas

Cancellation shall be made in the entire prefecture or by the units with clear geographical scopes, such as city, town, and village, taking into account the distribution units.

### 2. Items

(1) In principle, cancellation shall be made by individual item, such as spinach. (It is difficult to distinguish those grown in a greenhouse and in garden farming.)

(2) When cancellation is made for agricultural products whose measurement values tend to be high, such as spinaches, from the perspectives of shape, surface area, weight, etc., restrictions shall be simultaneously lifted for those agricultural products whose measurement levels are deemed to be lower than the cancelled items.

### 3. Requirements for the cancellation of restrictions (“to steadily fall below the provisional regulation values”)

(1) Select a multiple number of sampling points in the distribution areas of the items and the areas where cancellation applies.

(2) Continuously collect and analyze samples approximately every 1 week from the respective sampling points.

(3) When all data collected in the sampling points for the relevant commodity items in the areas where cancellation applies show levels below the provisional regulation values for the 3 consecutive times, cancellation shall apply for the relevant items in the relevant areas.

### 4. Measures to be taken after cancellation

Even after cancellations are made, the collection and analysis of the samples shall be regularly made at the sampling points indicated in 3. (1) and the analysis results shall be publicly announced.

## Milk

1. Units used for the collection of samples and the cancellation of restrictions

Samples of raw milk shall be collected per cooler-station or milk plant. If the requirements are met, restrictions shall be canceled by the units of city, town and village, in which the cooler-station and milk plant belong.
2. Requirements for the cancellation of restrictions (“to steadily fall below the provisional regulation values”)
  - ① Samples are continuously collected and analyzed approximately every 1 week from the cooler-station or milk plant concerned (or all farmers directly shipping raw milk to the plant).
  - ② When the samples collected show the level of 100Bq/kg or below (including non-detected cases) for the 3 consecutive times, cancellation shall apply to the relevant items of the relevant areas.
3. Measures to be taken after cancellation

Even after cancellations are made, the collection and analysis of the samples shall be regularly made and the analysis results shall be publicly announced.

April 4, 2011

Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW)

Securing equipment for inspection related to radioactive materials present in food  
based on the regulations of the Food Sanitation Act

- The prefectural governments conduct tests on toxic or harmful substances contaminating or covered foods in accordance with the regulations of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233, 1947). As part of the regulation, foods containing the level of radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values are deemed not to be supplied for human consumption.
- With regard to these tests, basically, the prefectural government's food sanitation inspection facilities or privately registered inspection facilities shall be used, according to the regulations of the Food Sanitation Act.
- Nevertheless, under the current circumstances in which the emission of radioactive materials accompanied with the nuclear emergency has not been restored to a normal state, it is important to effectively use the existing inspection equipment in order to properly carry out tests.
- Hence, the MHLW, with the cooperation of other Ministries shall gather information on the availability of inspection equipment in quarantine stations, research organizations, universities, etc. Based on that, the MHLW shall establish a scheme to introduce nearby quarantine stations, research organizations, universities, etc. owning inspection equipment to prefectural governments whose food sanitation inspection facilities are not equipped with the necessary inspection equipment.

Reference : omitted