

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

20 July 2011

Inspection and Safety Division,  
Department of Food Safety

To Press and those whom may concern,

Handling of cattle fed rice straw contaminated with radioactive cesium, in relation to the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant

This is an announcement that the MHLW has issued attached notice “Handling of cattle fed rice straw contaminated with radioactive cesium” to local governments.

Original: Japanese

Notice No. 0720 Article 3 of the Department of Food Safety

July 20, 2011

To: All Prefectural Governors

All Mayors in cities with Public Health Centers

All Mayors of Special Wards

Director-General, Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health,  
Labour and Welfare (MHLW)

#### Handling of cattle fed rice straw contaminated with radioactive cesium

Recently, beef containing radioactive cesium in excess of provisional regulation values has been found in the domestic meat distribution chain. It has been suspected that it is due to beef cattle fed rice straw that was left outdoors in Fukushima and Miyagi Prefecture, etc., after the accident at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant of the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

In the light of this situation, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters of the Government has instructed Fukushima Prefecture to restrict shipment of cattle to slaughterhouses, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has issued a notice on the inspections of contaminated rice straw.

MHLW has requested the Local Governments concerned to conduct surveys on the distribution of beef butchered for human consumption and secure beef samples for inspections. Furthermore, in order to respond to the rapid increase in the head of the cattle in question, MHLW has been disclosing individual identification numbers of all those cattle and extended assistance to test beef samples in quarantine stations. This notice is to request for the prevention of beef which exceeds the provisional regulation values from being distributed in the market, by taking note of the following points.

1. If beef derived from cattle fed contaminated rice straw (including suspected cases) is confirmed to have been distributed for human consumption, information of cattle's individual identification numbers, slaughter dates, and the wholesale markets where the beef concerned was shipped shall be disclosed.
2. If the beef concerned is found in the distribution channels, its sales shall be suspended and the concentration of radioactive materials shall be preferentially inspected on a priority basis.
3. If radioactive materials which exceed the provisional regulation values are detected in beef, measures shall be immediately taken for its recall.
4. The situations regarding 1, 2, and 3 shall be reported to Inspection and Safety Division, Department of Food Safety in a timely manner.