

March 15, 2012

To: All the Prefectural Governors

All the Mayors in Cities with Public Health Centers

All the Mayors of Special Wards

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

The Ministerial Ordinance Partially Revising the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc.; the Notification on Designating the Radioactive Substances Designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare under the Provisions of Item (I) (1) of the Attached Table 2 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc.; and the Notification on Partial Revision of Specification and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc.

The Ministerial Ordinance Partially Revising the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc. (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance No. 31 of 2012), the Notification on Designating the Radioactive Substances Designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare under the Provisions of Item (I) (1) of the Attached Table 2 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc. (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notification No. 129 of 2012. Hereinafter referred to as the “Notification on Milk etc.”), and the Notification on Partial Revision of Specification and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notification No. 130 of 2012) have been issued today to partially revise the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Ordinance No. 52 of 1951. Hereinafter referred to as the “Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.”) and the Specification and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370 of 1959. Hereinafter referred to as the “Notification on Specification and Standards”). The summary, etc. of the revision is

provided below, so please be thoroughly informed of the summary, etc. of the revision, advise all parties involved under your jurisdiction accordingly, and make sure that the revisions are properly implemented.

#### Article 1 Summary of the revision

Owing to the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, which occurred in March 2011, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has established provisional regulation values for radioactive substances in foods for ensuring safety of foods. Foods that exceed these regulation values have been deemed to be regulated under Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

Foods meeting the provisional regulation values are generally considered to have no health impact, and their safety as food is secured. However, in pursuit of further safety and reassurance of foods, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has considered reduction of the maximum permissible dose of radioactive cesium in foods from 5 mSv/year to 1 mSv/year and discussed the establishment of new standard limits in the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council. The new standard limits for radioactive substances in foods were approved at the meeting of the Food Sanitation Subcommittee of the Council on February 24, 2012. In line with Item 1 of Article 11 of the Act, the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc., and the Notification on Specification and Standards have been partially revised to establish specifications and standards for radioactive substances in foods.

#### Article 2 Contents of the revision

1 The Ministerial Ordinance Partially Revising the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc.

Radioactive substances designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare have been added to the substances stipulated in Item (I) (1) of the Attached Table 2 as substances that should not be contained in milk and milk products (milk and milk products stipulated in Article 1 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.).

2 The Notification on Designating the Radioactive Substances Designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare under the Provisions of Item(I) (1) of the Attached Table 2 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc.

For each of the milk and milk product categories provided in the following items, maximum concentrations of radioactive cesium (refers to radioactive cesium 134 and 137; the same applies hereinafter) allowed to be contained in milk and milk products under these categories have been specified in the relevant items, and **cesium exceeding the specified concentration** has been designated as a radioactive substance that should not be

contained in milk and milk products.

(1) The specified concentration of cesium allowed in milk specified in Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “milk”) or in milk drinks specified in Paragraph 40 of the same Article (hereinafter referred to as “milk drinks”) is 50 Bq/kg.

(2) The specified concentration of cesium allowed in milk products specified in Article 2, Paragraph 12 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “milk products”) (excluding milk drinks), intended for consumption by infants, or in foods principally made from milk and milk intended for consumption by infants products is 50 Bq/kg.

(3) The maximum concentration of cesium allowed in foods principally made from milk and milk products other than the foods specified in (2) is 100 Bq/kg.

3 The Notification on Partial Revision of Specification and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc.

(1) Radioactive substances have been added to substances that should not be contained in foods, specified in Paragraph 1 in Section A General Compositional Standards for Food in Part I Food.

(2) In foods listed in Column 1 of the following table, cesium should not be contained at concentrations exceeding those specified in the corresponding Column 2 of the table.

Column 1	Column 2
Mineral water (soft drinks made from only water)	10 Bq/kg
Soft drinks containing tea as a raw material	10 Bq/kg
Tea for drinking	10 Bq/kg
Food commodities intended for consumption by infants (milk specified in Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, etc. (Ministerial Ordinance No. 52 of 1951)) or milk products specified in Paragraph 12 of the same Article and foods principally made from these (hereinafter in this table referred to as “milk, etc.”), excluding those intended for consumption by infants.)	50 Bq/kg
Foods other than above (excluding milk, etc.)	100 Bq/kg

The measurement of concentrations specified in Column 2 shall be carried out under the following conditions.

(i) For manufactured or processed foods, the measurement shall be carried out on their manufactured or processed state as well as on the raw materials.

(ii) For tea for drinking, the measurement shall be carried out on tea in the ready-to-drink state.

(iii) For edible safflower oil, edible cottonseed oil, edible rice oil, and edible rapeseed oil specified in Article 2 of the Quality Labeling Standards for edible fats and oils

(Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Notification no. 1672 of 2000), the measurement shall be carried out on oils and fats.

(iv) Among foods manufactured by drying the raw materials and generally consumed in rehydrated states, for dried mushrooms, dried vegetables, dried seaweeds, and dried fish and shellfish specified in Annex 2 of the Quality Labeling Standard for Processed Foods (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Notification No. 513 of 2000), the measurement shall be carried out on these foods in rehydrated, ready-to-eat states.

“Dried mushrooms” refers to *shiitake*, jew's ear fungus, etc., among the dried mushrooms specified in the Japan Standard Commodity Classification (hereinafter referred to as the “commodity classification”). “Dried vegetables” excludes flakes and powders and refers to gourd shavings (dried), Japanese radish strips (dried), Japanese radish thin strips (dried), Japanese royal fern, *pteridium aquilinum*, taro (stalk, dried), etc., among the dried vegetables specified in the commodity classification. “Dried seaweeds” refers to sea tangle, *wakame* seaweed (dried), *hijiki* seaweed (dried), *arame* seaweed (dried), agar, etc., among the processed seaweeds specified in the commodity classification. “Dried fish and shellfish” refers to pacific herring (dried), pacific cod (dried), shark fin, etc., among the dried fish and shellfish specified in the commodity classification and abalone (dried), Japanese common sea cucumber (dried), etc., among the boiled-dried fish and shellfish specified in the commodity classification.

### Article 3 Dates of Implementation and Application

#### 1 Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.

The above-mentioned Ministerial Ordinance will become effective on April 1, 2012.

#### 2 Notifications

Relevant notifications will become effective on April 1, 2012.

However, regardless of the provisions in the main clause of the Notification on Milk, etc., among milk, milk products, and foods principally made from these that are manufactured, processed, or imported on or before March 31, 2012, milk and milk products shall not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 200 Bq/kg as a radioactive substance, and foods principally made from milk or milk products shall not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg as a radioactive substance. Moreover, regardless of the provisions in Section A General Compositional Standards for Food in Part I Food in the Notification on Specification and Standards, among the foods manufactured, processed, or imported on or before March 31, 2012, soft drinks (excluding fruit beverages specified in Article 2 of the Quality Labeling Standard for fruit beverages (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Notification no. 1683 of 2000); carrot juice and carrot mix juice specified in Article 2 of the Quality Labeling Standard for Carrot Juice and Carrot Mix Juice (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries Notification no. 1634 of 2000); and tomato juice, tomato mix juice, and tomato juice beverages specified in Article 2 of the Quality Labeling Standard for Processed Tomatoes (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Notification no. 1632 of 2000); the same applies hereafter) and alcoholic beverages specified in Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Liquor Tax Act (Act no. 6 of 1953) (hereinafter referred to as “alcoholic beverages”) (excluding those made from rice, muscles, fats, livers, kidneys, and edible parts (other than muscles, fats, livers, and kidneys. Hereinafter referred to as “edible parts”) of cattle or soybeans) should not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 200 Bq/kg. Foods manufactured, processed, or imported on or before this date (excluding soft drinks; alcoholic beverages; rice; muscles; fats; livers; kidneys; edible parts of cattle; soybeans; and foods manufactured, processed, or imported using rice, muscles, fats, livers, kidneys, and edible parts of cattle or soybeans as raw materials) shall not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg. Rice and muscles, fats, livers, kidneys, and edible parts of cattle shall not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg (applied until September 30, 2012). Foods manufactured, processed, or imported using rice or muscles, fats, livers, kidneys, or edible parts of cattle as raw materials on or before September 30, 2012 (excluding soft drinks and alcoholic beverages) shall not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg. Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages manufactured, processed, or imported using rice or muscles, fats, livers, kidneys, or edible parts of cattle as raw materials on or before September 30, 2012, should not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 200 Bq/kg. Soybeans should not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg (until December 31, 2012). Foods manufactured, processed, or imported using soybeans as raw materials on or before December 31, 2012 (except for soft drinks and alcoholic beverages) should not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 500 Bq/kg. Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages manufactured, processed, or imported using soybeans as raw materials on or before December 31, 2012, should not contain cesium at concentrations exceeding 200 Bq/kg.

#### Article 4 Other Points to Note

##### 1 Scope of the Application of Column 1 of the Notification of Specification and Standards

“Tea leaves” refers to leaves of *Camellia sinensis*, excluding fermented tea leaves.

##### 2 Scope of “infant foods”

- (1) The age of “infants” for whom “infant foods” specified in the specification and standards based on the Law are intended is specified as “less than 1 year old,” in line with the Child Welfare Act, etc.
- (2) “Infant foods” are specified as foods that are likely to be acknowledged as foods I intended for infants (aged less than 1 year old) by general consumers on the basis of their labels, etc.

(3) The Consumer Affairs Agency is planning to establish labeling standards for infant foods based on the Law.

3 Water used in food-handling facilities should be appropriately managed to prepare for the establishment of quality-control target values for radioactive substances in tap water.

4 Testing methods

The method for testing radioactive substances in foods will be provided separately.

Article 5 Information delivery to consumers, etc.

Q&A will be available on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website for providing information concerning radioactive substances in foods to consumers, etc. Please utilize this for information delivery.