

Notice No. 0315 Article 7 of the Standards and Evaluation Division, the Department of  
Food Safety  
March 15, 2012

To: The Heads of Health Departments (Bureaus) in Prefectures, Cities with Public Health Centers, and Special Wards

Director, Standards and Evaluation Division, Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

#### Application of testing methods for radioactive substances in food

The testing method for radioactive substances in food has been notified by Notice 0315 Article 4 of the Department of Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as “the Testing Method Notification”) dated March 15, 2012. As for the moisture content data (weight-change rate) of dried mushrooms, etc., after rehydration, weight-change rates for individual items provided in Annex 1 shall be used for the time being, which are based on the “Standard Tables of Food Composition in Japan 2010” published by the Subdivision on Resources, the Council for Science and Technology.

For dried mushrooms, etc., not listed in the items provided in the Annex 1, tests shall be performed in reference to the weight-change rates listed in Annex 2 for the time being. If the results exceed the standard limits, results calculated using the weight-change rates based on the data submitted by companies, etc., shall be used as the results of the relevant food.

Collection of data for weight-change rates will be continued, and the list of weight-change rates provided in Annexes 1 and 2 will be supplemented and revised to reflect new scientific findings.

For tea leaves for drinking, satisfying the following condition (i) or (ii), it has been confirmed that the radioactive cesium concentrations in ready-to-drink states do not exceed 10 Bq/kg. Thus, tests under ready-to-drink states stipulated in the Testing Method Notification are not required for these tea leaves.

(i) The radioactive cesium concentration in dried or manufactured tea leaves measured according to the method described in the Testing Method Notification does not exceed 200 Bq/kg.

(ii) The radioactive cesium concentration in dried or manufactured tea leaves measured using test equipment meeting the requirements provided in the “Screening Methods for Radioactive Cesium in Foods” in the Notice from the Inspection and Safety Division, dated March 1, 2012 does not exceed 150 Bq/kg.

However, when the test results exceed the value provided in (i) or (ii), tests under ready-to-drink states must be performed to obtain final test results.

(Annex 1)

Items	Weight-change rate
Shiitake (dried)	5.7
Jew's ear fungus (dried)	10
<i>Arage</i> - jew's ear fungus (dried)	4.9
<i>Shiro</i> - jew's ear fungus (dried)	15
Gourd shavings (dried)	5.3
Japanese royal fern (dried)	6.3
Taro (stalk) (dried)	7.6
<i>Wakame</i> seaweed (dried)	5.9

(Annex 2)

Items	Weight-change rate
Other mushrooms (dried)	4.0
Japanese radish strips (dried) <sup>1</sup>	4.0
Japanese radish thin strips (dried) <sup>1</sup>	4.0
Other vegetables (dried)	3.5
Sea tangle <sup>1</sup>	3.0
<i>Hijiki</i> seaweed (dried) <sup>1</sup>	8.5
Agar <sup>1</sup>	9.0
Other seaweeds (dried)	2.5
Pacific herring (dried) <sup>1</sup>	2.0
Pacific cod (dried) <sup>1</sup>	1.8
Japanese common sea cucumber (dried) <sup>2</sup>	7.6
Other fish and shellfish (dried)	1.4

1. "Basic Data for Cooking, 4<sup>th</sup> edition" Kagawa Nutrition University Publishing Division
2. "Effects of soaking conditions on the texture of dried sea cucumber" *FISHERS SCIENCE*, **70**, 319-325