

Notice No. 0701001 from the Department  
of Food Safety  
July 1, 2005

To:  
Governors of Prefectures,  
Mayors of Cities Operating Health Centers, and  
Heads of Special Wards

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

### **About the Partial Revision of the MHLW-related Implementation Rules for the Law on Special Measures against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**

Ministerial Ordinance to Revise Part of the MHLW-related Implementation Rules for the Law on Special Measures against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (MHLW Ordinance No. 110 in 2005) is published on the day and year first above written. Following this publication, part of the MHLW-related Implementation Rules for the Law on Special Measures against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (MHLW Ordinance No. 89 in 2002; hereinafter referred to as "Implementation Rules") shall be revised on August 1, 2005, and you are asked to ensure smooth operation of the above revision, with due attention to the following issues:

#### **No. 1 Purpose of this revision**

The first BSE case in Japan was identified in September 2001. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare started BSE tests covering all bovines processed for food, across the board in Japan. The ministry also mandated removal and incineration of specified risk materials of bovines (head (excluding tongue and cheek), spinal cord and distal ileum ) at abattoirs (enforced on October 18, 2001). These domestic measures were adopted in the context of those days, when: 1) the identification of bovine ages was still difficult, and 2) there was strong public concerns of mixed distribution of tested and non-tested beefs, shortly after the identification of the first BSE case in Japan.

By September 2004, the Food Safety Commission summarized results of scientific evaluation and verification concerning BSE-related measures in Japan (Attachment 1).

Based on these evaluation and verification results, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, consulted the Food Safety Commission as to the review of domestic measures on October 15, 2004 (Attachment 2). The Commission provided the ministries with replying report on May 6, 2005 (Attachment 3). The month ages covered by BSE tests in the Abattoirs Law shall be modified in accordance with the above results.

**No. 2 Content of this revision**

Provision of bovine month ages covered by BSE-related tests at abattoirs, under Article 1 of the Implementation Rules, shall be revised from 0 month to 21 months as stipulated by the Ministerial Ordinance of MHLW.

**No. 3 Date of enforcement**

The above revision shall be enforced on August 1, 2005.

**No. 4 Notices on operation**

- 1 BSE tests shall be conducted adequately, in conformity with “Implementation Guideline for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Tests,” revised by “About Implementation of Tests concerning Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy” (Notice No. 0701004 from the same Director hereof, Department of Food Safety; dated July 1, 2005).
- 2 Results of BSE tests shall be reported promptly, using the Meat Testing Support System.