



Q1

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Q2

A

I've been told that only 10% of all imported foods are tested. Is that sufficient to ensure food safety?

Japan imported 2,338,756 food items in FY 2016, amounting to 323,211 tons. Of these, 195,580 items were tested (a violation rate of 0.03%). Local quarantine stations and branches provide necessary guidance to importers at consultation before importing, and they conduct document examination for all import notifications submitted at the time of import. Furthermore, they conduct inspections according to the possibility of violation to effectively and efficiently ensure the safety of imported foods. Moreover, they conduct monitoring inspections of imported foods through monitoring inspections to identify the risk level of each food item. (During FY 2016, 8,146 monitoring inspections were conducted.) Based on these inspections, they identify items that are highly likely to violate the requirements, and all relevant import notifications are inspected each time they are submitted in order to prevent foods that do not meet the requirements from being imported to Japan. Furthermore, safety measures are also implemented in exporting countries through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on-site inspections. As described above, we implement safeguard measures in exporting countries to ensure food safety.



What kinds of safeguard measures are implemented in exporting countries?

With regard to food products that are highly likely to violate the requirements, we perform more rigorous inspections when they are imported, and in addition, demand that the exporting country investigate the cause of any violations, and based on the investigation result, take measures to prevent a recurrence. Furthermore, through bilateral discussions and negotiations, we take measures to ensure the proper management of production sites and the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system and pre-export inspections by the government of the exporting country in order to improve food safety. We also send specialists to exporting countries to confirm the implementation of safety measures, and organize seminars for government officials and producers of exporting countries so that they are well informed with regard to Japan's food safety regulations.

