

Press Release

March 17, 2011
Policy Planning and Communication Division,
Standards and Evaluation Division,
Inspection and Safety Division,
Department of Food Safety

Handling of food contaminated by radioactivity
(Relating to the accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant)

- Due to the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant which occurred on March 11, 2011, radioactivity has been detected in the surrounding environment. Therefore, from the perspective of the Food Sanitation Act, which aims to prevent sanitation hazards resulting from eating and drinking, and thereby protect citizen's good health, the "Indices relating to limits on food and drink ingestion" indicated by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan shall be adopted for the time being as provisional regulation values, and foods which exceed these levels shall be deemed to be regulated by Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act. Measures shall be taken to ensure that such foods are not supplied to the public to eat, and local governments have been notified as indicated on the separate sheet.

<Reference 1> Food Sanitation Act, Article 1

Article 1

The purpose of this Act is to prevent the sanitation hazards resulting from eating and drinking by enforcing the regulations and other measures necessary, from the viewpoint of public health, to ensure food safety and thereby to protect citizens' good health.

<Reference 2> Food Sanitation Act, Article 6, Item 2 (Extracts)

Article 6

The following food and additives shall not be sold (including cases of being delivered but not being sold to many and unspecified persons; the same shall apply hereinafter), or collected, produced, imported, processed, used, cooked, stored, or displayed for the purpose of marketing:

(ii). Articles which contain or are covered with toxic or harmful substances or are suspected to contain or be covered with such substances; provided, however, that this shall not apply to cases where the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare specifies that such articles involve no risk to human health;