

(Annex)



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Results of Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2020

Interim Report

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Pharmaceutical Safety and
Environmental Health Bureau,
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Inspection Results of Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2020 (Interim Report)

1. Introduction

In order to ensure the safety of foods, etc., imported into Japan (hereinafter, “imported foods”), the government established the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for 2020 (hereinafter, “the Plan”) as per the regulations of Article 23, paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233, 1947; hereinafter, “the Act”), and monitoring and guidance for imported foods is being conducted based upon the Plan.

(The Plan is formulated based on the Guidelines for Monitoring and Guidance for Food Sanitation (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notification No. 301 of 2003) after conducting collection of public comments and risk communication. The plan is published in the Official Gazette as an official report according to the regulations of Article 23, paragraph 3 of the Act.)

This document publishes an outline of the implementation status of the monitoring and guidance for imported foods, conducted in accordance with the plan, for the period from April to September 2020.

Reference: Website on “Imported Foods Monitoring for the Safety of Imported Food”

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/yunyu_kanshi/index.html



2. Overview of the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2020

(1) What is the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan?

It is the plan for the implementation of monitoring and guidance for the import of foods by the Japanese government as stipulated by Article 23, paragraph 1 of the Act.

[Purpose] To further ensure the safety of imported foods by the national government promoting intensive, effective and efficient monitoring and guidance for imported foods and importers.

(2) Principles for Monitoring and Guidance on Imported Foods

Under the Article 4 of the Food Safety Basic Act (Act No.48 of 2003) (that is, Food safety shall be ensured by taking the necessary measures appropriately at each stage of the domestic and overseas Food Supply Processes.), the Plan is prepared in order that each stage of food safety measures are taken, namely, from productions in the exporting country to domestic distribution after importation.

(3) Priority Items for Monitoring and Guidance

- Confirmation of legality with respect to the Act at the time of import declaration
- Monitoring Inspections*¹ (Plan for FY2020:approximately 99,700 cases across 171 food groups)
- Inspection orders *²
- Regulations for comprehensive import bans *³
- Emergency measures based on overseas information, etc.

*1: Systematic inspections considered based on figures derived from statistical approach taking into account the volume of imports, violation rates and other factors, for each food type.

*2: Inspection is ordered for the importer for products with a high probability of violation, at the time of every import. and import and distribution is not permitted without the results being in compliance with the Act.

*3: Regulations by which the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare may prohibit the sale or import of specified foods, without inspections, in cases where it is deemed specifically necessary from the perspective of preventing harm to public health.

(4) Promotion of Food Hygiene Control Measures in Exporting Countries

- Informing the exporting countries responsible governmental agencies, food business operators and other organizations of food safety regulations of Japan.
- Request for unfolding causes of and taking recurrence prevention measures for violations of the Act, and promotion of hygiene management measures by hygiene controls at the production stage, enhancement of monitoring systems, inspection before exportation, etc., through bilateral talks, etc.
- Systematic collection of information on hygiene management measures for foods exported to Japan, etc.
- Technical cooperation, etc. that contributes to strengthening the monitoring system in exporting countries.

(5) Guidance for Importers on Voluntary Hygiene Control

- Pre-import guidance (known as import consulting)
- Guidance for voluntary inspections at the import consulting, initial import, and

- continued import
- Guidance on preparation, storage, etc. of records on import and sales conditions of imported foods
- Raising awareness of food safety amongst importers

3. Inspection Results of Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2020 (Interim Report: Tentative)

Figures in brackets are for the same period in the previous year.

The number of import notifications made from April through September of 2020 was 1,164,822 [1,298,431], and the weight of notified items was 11,684 thousand tons [12,488 thousand tons].

Inspections were carried out on 98,296 items [112,319 items] (monitoring inspections on 25,184 items [30,985 items], ordered inspection on 33,233 items [34,558 items], and independence inspection on 41,417 items [48,681 items], deducting duplicates) of these, 305 cases [407 cases] were found to be in violation of the Act, and steps were taken for their reshipment, disposal, etc. (Table 1)

Regarding violations categorized by provision, violations of Article 13 of the Act (compositional standards for food (microbial, agricultural chemical residues and veterinary drug residues) and standards for the use of additives in food, etc.) were the most common in 194 cases, followed by 88 cases in violation of Article 6 (adhesion of hazardous or toxic substances such as aflatoxin, cyanide), 23 cases in violation of Article 12 (use of undesignated additives), 8 cases in violation of Article 18 (standards for apparatus or containers and packaging), 1 case in violation of Article 10 (absence of health certificates of meat) and 1 cases in violation of Article 62 (standards for toys)(Table 2).

Monitoring inspection was conducted for 25,184 cases (54,711 cases compared to the planned cumulative total of 99,730 (implementation rate: approx. 55%)), and of which, 72 cases (running total of 72 cases) were confirmed to be in violation of the Act, and steps were taken for their recalls, etc. (Table 3). For imported foods that were found to be in violation of the Act by monitoring inspection, the inspection rate was increased as necessary, to identify probable of violations (Table 4). Additionally, for imported foods that are considered to have a high probability of violating the Act, inspections were strengthened by making them subject of ordered inspections (Table 5).

As of September 30, 2020, 17 items from all exporting countries and 81 items from 30 countries and 2 regions were made subject to ordered inspection, and inspection was carried out for 33,233 cases (running total of 38,243 cases). Of these, violation of the Act was found in 92 cases (running total of 95 cases), and steps were taken for their reshipment or disposal, etc. (Table 6).

As an emergency measures based on information from overseas, etc., reshipment, etc., was carried out for peanut butter contaminated with Aflatoxin from Netherland (Table 7).

○Table 1. Notification, Inspection and Violation (Apr-Sep 2020: Tentative)

Notifications ^{*1} (cases)	Imported Weight ^{*1} (thousand tons)	Inspections ^{*2} (cases)	Proportion ^{*3} (%)	Violations (cases)	Proportion ^{*3} (%)
1,164,822	11,684	98,296 (33,233 ^{*4})	8.4	305	0.03
(FY2019) 1,298,431	12,488	112,319	8.7	407	0.03

*1 Cargoes of planned Import System (excluding time of first importation) are not included.

*2 Inspections by authorities, registered inspection organizations and foreign official laboratories, deducting duplicates.

*3 Proportion as compared to notifications.

*4 Number of ordered inspections.

Table 2. Violations by Legal Provision (Apr-Sep 2020: Tentative)

Provision violated	Violations (cases)	Proportion (%)	Brief details of Violations
Article 6 (Foods and Additives prohibited to distribute)	88 (Gross) 88 (Actual)	27.9	Aaflatoxin contamination in almonds, peanuts, corn, dried fig, pistachio nuts, pepper(spice) etc.; decay, deterioration and fungus formation due to accidents during the transport of rice, wheat, soybean, rape seeds, detection of paralytic shellfish poison from bivalves, and detection of cyanide from flax seeds processed products, etc.
Article 10 (Limitation on distribution, etc. of diseased meat)	1 (Gross) 1 (Actual)	0.3	No health certificate attached or incomplete
Article 12 (Limitation of distribution, etc. of additives)	23 (Gross) 23 (Actual)	7.3	Use of undesigned additives (TBHQ, cyclamic acid, Quinoline Yellow WS, Methyl paraoxybenzoate, etc.)
Article 13 (Standards and criteria for foods and additives)	194 (Gross) 185 (Actual)	61.6	Violation of standards for constituents for agricultural products and processed products (excess of standards on residual agricultural chemicals), violation of standards for constituents for meat, aquatic foods and processed products (excess of standards on residual veterinary drugs, excess of standards on residual agricultural chemicals), violation of standards for constituents for frozen food, beverages, hermetically packaged, pressure and heat sterilized food product , etc., (E.coli positive, coliform bacteria positive, possible microbes positive, etc.), violation of criteria on production of retort sterilized foods, violation of criteria on use of additives (sulfur dioxide, polysorbate etc.), violation of standards for constituents for additives, detection of unauthorized genetically modified foods, Irradiated, etc.
Article 18 (Standards and criteria for apparatus, containers and packaging)	8 (Gross) 8 (Actual)	2.5	Violation of standards and criteria for apparatus, containers and packaging
Article 62 (Provisions to be applied mutatis mutandis for toys)	1 (Gross) 1 (Actual)	0.3	Violation of standards and criteria for toys
Total	(Gross) 315 ^{*1} (Actual) 305 ^{*2}		

*1 Gross number of Itemized cases violations

*2 Number of notification cases for which inspections were carried out (One case violates Article 12 and Article 13)

Table 3. Implementation of Monitoring Inspections (Apr-Sep 2020: Tentative)

Food Groups	Inspected Substances* ¹	Planned Number	Actual Number	Violations
Livestock Foods Beef, pork, chicken, horse meat, other poultry meat, etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	2,178	919	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,221	663	0
	Additives	118	113	0
	Pathogenic microorganism	657	257	0
	Standards for constituents	385	246	0
	Radiation irradiation	29	0	0
	Removal of SRM	-	727	1
Processed Livestock Foods Natural cheeses, processed meat products, ice cream, frozen (meat) products, etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	2,446	1,027	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,637	1,317	1
	Additives	1,247	1,068	0
	Pathogenic microorganism	3,704	1,901	0
	Standards for constituents	2,057	1,239	1
	Mycotoxins	-	1	0
Aquatic Foods Bivalves, fish, crustacea (shrimps, crabs), etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	2,356	1,029	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,458	693	0
	Additives	297	147	0
	Pathogenic microorganism	1,493	801	0
	Standards for constituents	324	226	1
	Genetically modified food	59	31	0
	Radiation irradiation	64	19	0
Processed Aquatic Foods Processed fish products (fillet, dried or minced fish, etc.), frozen food (aquatic animals, fish), processed marine product eggs, etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	3,574	2,485	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	3,423	2,653	0
	Additives	1,594	1,893	1
	Pathogenic microorganism	4,958	3,042	0
	Standards for constituents	5,675	2,885	14
Agricultural Foods Vegetables, fruits, wheat, maize, pulses, peanuts, nuts, seeds, etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	2,170	1,784	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	11,438	5,036	21
	Additives	774	675	0
	Pathogenic microorganism	1,434	948	0
	Standards for constituents	355	238	1
	Mycotoxins	2,297	1,248	1
	Genetically modified food	502	198	0
	Radiation irradiation	119	94	0
Processed Agricultural Foods Frozen food (vegetables), processed vegetable products, processed fruit products, spices, instant noodles, etc	Antibacterial substances, etc.	299	199	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	6,980	4,492	6
	Additives	3,743	3,495	1
	Pathogenic microorganism	1,911	1,018	0
	Standards for constituents	3,518	2,201	9
	Mycotoxins	2,715	1,568	2
	Genetically modified food	302	130	1
	Radiation irradiation	458	178	0
Other Foods Health foods, soups, seasonings, confectionery, cooking oil and fat, frozen food, etc.	Antibacterial substances, etc.	-	1	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,074	780	1
	Additives	2,925	1,777	1
	Standards for constituents	1,196	426	5
	Mycotoxins	836	456	0
	Genetically modified food	-	11	0
	Radiation irradiation	-	3	0
Beverages Mineral waters, soft drinks, alcoholic drinks, etc.	Residual agricultural chemicals	118	207	0
	Additives	1,075	632	0
	Standards for constituents	657	307	0
	Mycotoxins	118	65	0
Additives Apparatus, containers and packaging Toys	Standards for constituents	1,762	1,162	4
Total (gross)		99,730^{*2}	54,711^{*3} Implementation rate of 55%	72^{*3}

*1: Examples of inspected substances

- Antibacterial substances, etc.: antibiotics, synthetic antimicrobials, hormone drugs, etc.
- Residual agricultural chemicals: organophosphorus, organochlorine, carbamates, pyrethroid, etc.
- Additives: preservatives, coloring agents, sweetener, antioxidants, antimold agents, etc.
- Pathogenic microorganisms: Enterohemorrhagic E. coli O26, O103, O104, O111, O121, O145 and O157, Listeria monocytogenes, Vibrio parahaemolyticus, etc.
- Standards for constituents, etc.: Items stipulated in the standards for constituents (bacteria count, coliform bacteria, radioactive substance (excludes pathogenic microorganism)), shellfish poisons (diarrhetic shellfish toxin, paralytic shellfish poison), etc.
- Mycotoxin: aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol, patulin, etc.
- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): genetically modified foods, etc. that have not been assessed for safety.
- Radiation irradiation: with or without of irradiation

*2: 10,000 cases planned as enhanced monitoring were added to the number

*3 Running total by inspected substances Actual number is 25,184 (Monitoring Inspections), and 72 (Violations).

Table 4. Items Subject to Enhanced Monitoring Inspections*¹ (Apr-Sep 2020)

Country/Region	Subject Item	Inspected Substances
China	Red beans	Acetochlor
	Green soy beans	Diflubenzuron
	Okra	Haloxifop
	Perilla	Isoprocarb, fenobucarb
	Leek	Dichlorvos and naled
	Bee larva	Oxytetracycline
	Matsutake mushroom	Acetochlor
Vietnam	PUK WHAN (Sauropus androgynus)	Pyridaben
	Squid	Chloramphenicol
	Rice paddy herb	Isoprothiolane, Difenconazole
	Banana	Fipronil
	Bell pepper	Acephate
Philippine	Okra	Profenofos
	Papaya	Deltamethrin and Tralomethrin
South Korea	Perilla leaves	Indoxacarb, Thiaclopid, Tetraconazole, Teflubenzuron
Hungary	Honey	Coumafos
Malawi	Macademia nuts	Permethrin
Myanmar	Sesame seeds	Aflatoxin
Mexico	Mango	Cypermethrin

*¹ Include the Items which were rescinded from inspection order, and exclude the items which were transferred to inspection order.

○Table 5. Items transferred to Inspection Order (Apr-Sep 2020)

Country/Region	Subject Item	Inspected Substances
China	Food Groups (limited producers)	Cyclamic acid
	Carrot	Triadimenol
	Garlic sprouts	Thiamethoxam
	Potato	Haloxifop
Vietnam	Green chili	Propiconazole
	Capsicum frutescens	Propiconazole, Hexaconazole
	Food Groups (limited producers)	Cyclamic acid
South Korea	Perilla leaves	Paclobutrazol
	Bivalves	Diarrhetic shellfish poison
Thai	Mango	Cypermethrin
	Mango(limited shippers)	Chlorpyrifos, Propiconazole
Philippine	Okra(limited shippers)	Tebufenozide, Fluazifop-butyl, Methamidophos

OTable 6. Major Items subject to Ordered Inspections and Inspection Outcomes (Apr-Sep 2020: Tentative)

Country/Region	Major subject foods	Major Inspected Substances	Inspections	Violations
All exporting countries (17 items)	Almond, Chili pepper, Peanut, etc.	Aflatoxin	6,356	44
	Cassava, Beans containing cyanide	Cyanide	197	1
	Salted salmon roe	Nitrite	113	0
China (18 items)	Vegetables (Onion, Carot, Spinach, etc.), Short-neck clam	Residual agricultural chemicals (Endrin, Chlorpyrifos, Thiamethoxam, Dieldrin (including aldrin), Triadimenol, Haloxyfop, Procymidine, Prometryn, etc.)	13,819	15
	Bivalves	Paralytic shellfish poison, Diarrhetic shellfish poison	3,390	0
	All processed products	Cyclamic acid	325	0
	Szechuan pepper, Sunflower seeds, Sorghum	Aflatoxin	237	0
	Eel, Soft-shelled turtle	Enrofloxacin, Oxolinic acid, Sulfadimidine	85	0
South Korea (13 items)	Bivalves	Paralytic shellfish poison, Diarrhetic shellfish poison	866	6
	Green chili	Residual agricultural chemicals (Fluquinconazole)	30	0
Thailand (10 items)	Okra, Green asparagus, Durian, Banana, Mango, Mangosteen	Residual agricultural chemicals (EPN, Imazalil, Chlorpyrifos, Cypermethrin, Procymidone, Propiconazole)	527	1
India (8 items)	Cultured shrimp	Furazolidone	1,057	4
	Cassia seeds, Defatted soybean, Corns	Aflatoxin	298	0
	Black tea, Pepper, Fennel seeds	Residual agricultural chemicals (Triazophos, Hexaconazole)	27	0
Vietnam (8 items)	Squid, Shrimp, Filefish	Enrofloxacin, Chloramphenicol	5,529	2
	All processed products	Cyclamic acid	56	0
	Green chili, Red pepper, Culantro	Residual agricultural chemicals (Chlorpyrifos, Cypermethrin, Propiconazole, Profenofos, Hexaconazole)	6	4
USA (8 items)	Dried dates, Corn, Pistachio	Aflatoxin	1,595	7
	Corn	Deltamethrin and Tralomethrin	195	0
	Natural cheese	Listeria monocytogenes	4	0
Other countries (Total of 34 items in 24 countries and 2 regions)			3,531	11
Total (Gross) ^{*1}			38,243	95
(Actual) ^{*2}			33,233	92

*1 Gross number of Itemized cases violations

*2 Number of notification cases for which inspections were carried out

OTable 7. Major Enhanced Monitoring based on Overseas Information (Apr-Sep 2020)

Month of enhancement	Subject country	Subject food and details	Background and status
Apr.	Netherlands	Peanuts butter (Aflatoxin)	Information was received stating that in the Netherlands a manufacturer was conducting voluntary recall of peanuts butter due to the detection of Aflatoxin. When an import notification was made for such recall products, steps were taken for reshipment, etc.

(Reference) Description of Key Terms

Term	Description
Acetochlor	Agricultural chemical (acid amide herbicides)
Aflatoxin	Mycotoxin (produced by the fungus <i>Aspergillus</i> , etc.)
Isoprocarb	Agricultural chemical (carbamate insecticide)
Isoprothiolane	Agricultural chemical (malonic acid ester fungicide)
Genetically modified foods	Foods made from living organisms obtained by genetically modified technology. Genetically modified technology is a technology that artificially introduces the genes of one organism into the chromosomes of another organism.
Indoxacarb	Agricultural chemical (oxaziazine insecticide)
Enrofloxacin	Veterinary drug (new quinolone synthetic antibacterial agent)
Oxytetracycline	Veterinary drug (tetracycline antibiotal agent)
Oxolinic acid	Veterinary drug (quinolone synthetic antibacterial agent)
<i>Kudoa septempunctata</i>	A type of parasite which causes food poisoning (Myxosporidia)
Coumaphos	Agricultural chemical (organophosphorus insecticide)
Chloramphenicol	Veterinary drug (synthetic antibacterial agent)
Chlorpyrifos	Agricultural chemical (organophosphorus insecticide)
Diarrhetic shellfish toxin	Shellfish poison (mainly refers to toxins produced by a harmful plankton accumulated in clams)
Cyclamic acid	Undesignated additives
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Pathogenic microorganism (A bacterium that is ubiquitous in the intestines of animals as well as in nature, such as rivers, sewage and lakes. It contaminates meat, mostly poultry and eggs, and causes acute abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever and vomiting.)
Cyanide	Harmful or poisonous compound (cyanide-related compounds (e.g., cyanogenic glycoside) found in vegetables such as some varieties of beans.
Dichlorvos and naled	Agricultural chemical (organophosphorus insecticide)
Difenoconazole	Agricultural chemical (triazole fungicide)
Cypermethrin	Agricultural chemical (pyrethroid insecticide)
Sulfadimidine	Veterinary drug (synthetic antibacterial agent)
Thiacloprid	Agricultural chemical (neonicotinoid insecticide)
Thiamethoxam	Agricultural chemical (neonicotinoid insecticide)
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	Pathogenic microorganism (A bacterium living in seawater (estuaries, coastal areas, etc.) that commonly contaminates fish and shellfish, and causes abdominal pain, watery diarrhea, fever and vomiting.)
Enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>	Pathogenic microorganism (A bacterium that normally lives in the intestines of animals. It contaminates foods and drinking water by way of feces and urine, and causes acute abdominal pain and bloody diarrhea together with large amounts of blood after early cold-like symptoms.)
Tetraconazole	Agricultural chemical (triazole fungicide)
Teflubenzuron	Agricultural chemical (benzoyl phenylurea insecticide)
Deltamethrin and tralomethrin	Agricultural chemical (pyrethroid insecticide)
Triadimenol	Agricultural chemical (fungicide)
Tricyclazole	Agricultural chemical (benzothiazole herbicide)
Sulfur dioxide	Additive (antioxidant agents)
Paclbutrazol	Agricultural chemical (triazole growth regulator)
Haloxfop	Agricultural chemical (heterocyclic herbicide)
Pyridaben	Agricultural chemical (insecticide with pyridazinone structure)
Fipronil	Agricultural chemical (phenylpyrazole synergist)
Fenobucarb	Agricultural chemical (carbamate insecticide)
Furazolidone	Veterinary drug (nitrofurantoin synthetic antibacterial agent), generates AOZ when metabolized
Procymidone	Agricultural chemical (dicarboximide fungicide)
Propiconazole	Agricultural chemical (triazole fungicide)
Prometryn	Agricultural chemical (triazine herbicide)
Hexaconazole	Agricultural chemical (triazole fungicide)
Permethrin	Agricultural chemical (pyrethroid insecticide)
Paralytic shellfish poison	Shellfish poison (mainly refers to toxins produced by a harmful plankton accumulated in clams)
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Pathogenic microorganism (A normal flora in the natural environment that contaminates daily products and processed meat products, and causes influenza-like symptoms including tiredness and fever)
EPN	Agricultural chemical (organophosphorus insecticide)