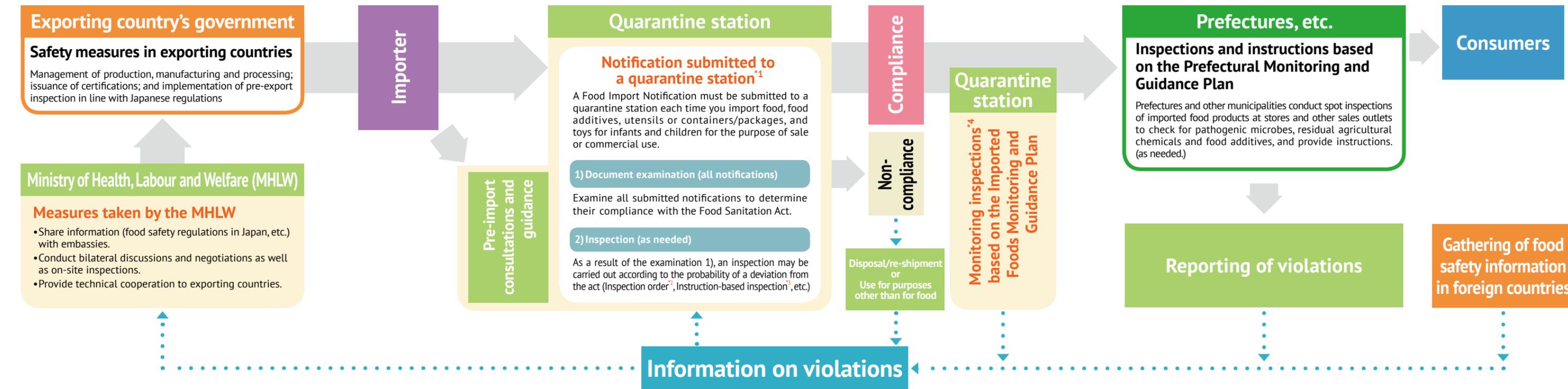


Measures for Food Safety from Farm to Table



*1 The information present on a Food Import Notification, such as the exporting country, imported items, producer/production sites, raw materials, production methods and the use or non-use of additives, is examined. A Food Import Notification can be submitted seven days before the estimated time of arrival of the cargo. For contact information regarding inquiries about notification and consultation on imports, see the list of offices at the back of this brochure.

*2 Inspection order: If the food is highly likely to violate the Food Sanitation Act, the quarantine station orders the importer to conduct an inspection. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

*3 Instruction-based inspection: This is an inspection that is conducted by importers on their own responsibility to ensure the safety of imported foods. The quarantine office may instruct importers who import food for the first time to conduct a voluntary inspection or instruct importers to conduct periodic inspections. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

*4 Inspections conducted to ascertain the level of residue from agricultural chemicals and other substances according to the annual plan.

Q1 I've been told that only 10% of all imported foods are tested. Is that sufficient to ensure food safety?

A Japan imported 2,350,033 food items in FY 2023, amounting to 29,866,575 tons. Of these, 199,272 items were tested (a violation rate of 0.03%). Quarantine stations 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 inspections are conducted according to the possibility for violation to effectively and efficiently ensure the safety of imported foods. More specifically, through monitoring inspections a wide variety of imported foods is monitored, and the risk level of each food item is identified (During FY 2023, 101,096 monitoring inspections were conducted). Based on these inspections, all relevant import notifications of the identified items which are highly likely to violate the requirements are inspected each import in order to prevent foods that do not meet the requirements from being imported to Japan. Furthermore, safety measures are also implemented through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on site inspections to ensure food safety in exporting countries.



Q2 What kinds of safety measures are implemented in exporting countries?

A With regard to food products which are highly likely to violate the requirements, inspections are enhanced at the time of import, and in addition, MHLW requests that the exporting country investigates the cause of any violations, and takes appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence based on the results. Furthermore, through bilateral discussions and negotiations, measures such as the proper management of production sites, the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system and pre-export inspections by the government of the exporting country are taken in order to improve food safety. Specialists are dispatched to exporting countries to confirm the implementation status of safety measures, and organize seminars for government officials and producers of exporting countries to inform and promote awareness of Japan's food safety regulations.



For frequently asked questions, visit the following URL:
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000072466.html>

