

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

23 March 2011

Policy Planning and Communication Division,
Inspection and Safety Division,
Department of Food Safety

To Press and those whom may concern,

Monitoring of Radioactive Contaminants for Agricultural and Livestock Products
(in relation to the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant)

Given the recent issuance of the Instructions by name of Prime Minister Mr Naoto Kan, who is Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, addressed to Governors of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gun-ma Prefectures ordering to restrict distribution of foods concerned produced in these prefectures, in accordance with the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156, 1999), Director General of the Food Safety Department of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has issued an Notice (No. 0323-1, as presented in Annex) as of today 23 March 2011 asking the Governors of the following neighboring Prefectures: Miyagi; Yamagata; Saitama; Chiba; Niigata; and Nagano to extend monitoring tests for agricultural and livestock products in the respective prefectures.

In the Notice above, it has been informed that relevant National Institutes/Laboratories will test their samples if the prefectures concerned have difficulty in testing their food samples due to lack of capacity and laboratory equipment.

(Annex)

Notice (No.0323-1, on 23 March 2011)

From Director General, Food Safety Department of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)
To Governors of Miyagi, Yamagata, Saitama, Chiba, Niigata and Nagano,

Request for Enhancing Monitoring Test of Radioactive Contaminants in Agricultural and Livestock Products

With regard to food monitoring test for radionuclide, associated with the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant occurred on 11 March 2011, MHLW has already set provisional regulation values (action levels) for withdrawal from market based on Food Sanitation Act, with a view to ensuring safety of foods.

Following the action above, 44 food samples, among 185 food samples in total tested by 21 March 2011, were found to be contaminated with radionuclide exceeding the action levels. Given these test results, as of 21 March 2011, Prime Minister Mr Naoto Kan, who is Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, has already issued the Instruction (as in the attachment) addressed to respective Governors of the four Prefectures: Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gun-ma, ordering restrictive measures put in place not to distribute foods concerned, in accordance with the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156, 1999).

In this juncture, as it is deemed necessary to extend monitoring test for agriculture and livestock foods produced in other six neighboring Prefectures concerned, this Notice is to request for enhancement of monitoring test in the said six Prefectures for radioactive contamination in agriculture and livestock foods, in particular, the same types of products restricted so far. .

In addition, it is to inform that relevant National Institutes/Laboratories would consider possible assistance to test food samples from the prefectures concerned if they have difficulty in testing their food samples due to lack of laboratory equipment and capacity.

(Attachment)

Instruction

21 March 2011

From Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters
To Governors of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gun-ma Prefectures,

Recognizing the accident occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (operated by TEPCO Co. Ltd), the following order shall take place, under the authority of the Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, following Article 20.3 of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156, 1999):

Restrictive requirements shall apply to food business operators concerned not to distribute the following foods produced in the respective prefectures:

- 1) Spinach and Kakina harvested in Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gun-ma Prefectures; and
- 2) Fresh raw milk produced in Fukushima Prefecture.