

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

5 April 2011

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

To Press and those whom may concern,

Handling of provisional regulation values for radioactive iodine in fishery products

Regarding radioactive materials present in food, starting March 17, the "Indices relating to limits on food and drink ingestion" indicated by the Nuclear Safety Commission shall be adopted as provisional regulation values, and foods which exceeds these levels shall be deemed to be regulated under Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act. Measures have been taken to ensure that such food is not supplied for human consumption. (Press release: March 17, "Handling of food contaminated by radioactivity")

In the notice, the provisional regulation value has not been established for radioactive iodine in fishery products where Nuclear Safety Commission did not indicate the index value.

Nevertheless, the case in which a considerable level of radioactive iodine was detected in fishery product has been recently reported. (Press release: April 4 "Levels of radioactive contaminants in foods")

In the light of the Nuclear Safety Commission's advice, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters announced its policy today. Following this policy, radioactive iodine in fishery products shall be handled as bellow for the time being:

1. The provisional regulation values for radioactive iodine set for vegetables as food other than beverages, milk and dairy products (i.e. 2,000 Bq/kg) shall be applied to fishery products.
2. Fishery products which exceed this level shall be deemed to be regulated under Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act. Measures shall be taken to ensure that such food is not supplied for human consumption.

Local governments have been notified of the above as indicated in the separate sheet.

<Reference> Food Sanitation Act

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.

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;

Original: Japanese

Notice No. 1-0405 of the Department of Food Safety

April 5, 2011

To: All Prefectural Governors

All Mayors in cities with Public Health Centers

All Mayors of Special Wards

Director-General, Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health,
Labour and Welfare

Handling of provisional regulation values for radioactive iodine in fishery products

The provisional regulation values of radioactive materials in food, based on the Food Sanitation Act have been notified with the issuance of the "Handling of food contaminated by radioactivity (on March 17, 2011 in Notice No. 0317 Article 3 of the Department of Food Safety). No provisional regulation value has been established for radioactive iodine in fishery products which is not covered by the "Indices relating to limits on food and drink intake" in the "Disaster prevention measures at nuclear facilities etc." (issued by the Nuclear Safety Commission in June 1980)

Nevertheless, the case in which a considerable level of radioactive iodine was detected in fishery products has recently been reported to MHLW.

Therefore, for radioactive iodine recently detected in fishery products, the provisional regulation values for radioactive iodine set for vegetables as food other than beverages, milk, and dairy products (i.e. 2,000 Bq/kg) shall be applied for the time being. Fishery products which exceed this level shall be deemed to be regulated under Article 6, Item 2 of the Food Sanitation Act. Appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that such food is not supplied for human consumption.

Reference

Nuclide	Provisional regulation values of radioactive materials in food in accordance with the Food Sanitation Act (Bq/kg)	
Radioactive iodine (Representative radio-nuclides among mixed radio-nuclides: ^{131}I)	Drinking water	300
	Milk, dairy products *	
	Vegetables (Except root vegetables and tubers)	2,000
	Fishery products	
Radioactive cesium	Drinking water	200
	Milk, dairy products	
	Vegetables	500
	Grains	
	Meat, eggs, fish, etc.	
Uranium	Infant foods	20
	Drinking water	
	Milk, dairy products	
	Vegetables	100
	Grains	
	Meat, eggs, fish, etc.	
Alpha-emitting nuclides of plutonium and transuranic elements (Total radioactive concentration of ^{238}Pu , ^{239}Pu , ^{240}Pu , ^{242}Pu , ^{241}Am , ^{242}Cm , ^{243}Cm , ^{244}Cm)	Infant foods	1
	Drinking water	
	Milk, dairy products	
	Vegetables	10
	Grains	
	Meat, eggs, fish etc.	

*) Provide guidance so that materials exceeding 100 Bq/kg are not used in milk supplied for use in powdered baby formula or for direct drinking.