

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

4 August 2011

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

To Press and those whom may concern,

The Revision of the “Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods concerned Applies”

Today, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters announced revisions to the “Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods concerned Applies” concerning radioactive materials in foods, as in Annex.

【Reference 1】 Purpose of the revision

In light of the detection of the levels of radioactive cesium exceeding the provisional regulation values in beef and the upcoming harvest season of rice, the concepts released on June 27 is revised.

The concepts will continue to be revised as necessary in accordance with changes in situations.

【Reference 2】 Major revised points

- Local governments instructed to formulate inspection plans are added.
- In the section of “Items concerned,” Beef is moved from the “Major items which take into account of the amount of the public consumption” to the “Items in which radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values have been found.”
- Beef and Rice are added to the items to be handled.

Reference 3: Omitted

Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods Concerned Applies

The Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters

I. Purpose

On March 17, 2011, the provisional regulation values for radioactive materials were established based on the Food Sanitation Act (Law No. 233 issued in 1947). On April 4, the “Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods Concerned Applies” were compiled based on findings obtained until then. Since then, while the level of radioactive iodine detected in foods has declined, radioactive cesium exceeding the provisional regulation values has been detected in certain foods. This has led us to reorganize the concepts of the following, based on the current findings: the inspection planning to properly judge the need for the restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods; the judgment criteria on the necessity for the restriction of distribution and/or consumption based on inspection results; and the cancellation of the restriction of distribution and/or consumption.

This revised “Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods Concerned Applies,” in light of the nature of radioactive materials released and the status in which they have been detected in foods, intends to change the focus from one that emphasized on foods susceptible to the fallout of radioactive iodine emitted immediately after the nuclear power plant accident to that based on the impact of radioactive cesium and the actual situations of the public consumption of foods.

The implementation of the revised “Concepts of Inspection Planning and the Establishment and Cancellation of Items and Areas to which Restriction of Distribution and/or Consumption of Foods Concerned Applies” will be managed based on findings obtained so far (regarding the fallout and attachment of radioactive materials; their migration from water, farm soil, and atmosphere; and the effects of production and feeding of animals).

Information on the system for implementing inspections of radioactive materials at the local government level will continue to be obtained, on an as-needed basis. The relevant Ministries will also consider securing a medium- and long-term inspection system.

II. Inspection planning for the local governments

1. Basic concepts

Additional requirements were set out in the “Manual on Radiation Measurement of Foods in Emergency Situations” (March, 2002).

2. The local governments concerned

(1) The local governments instructed by the Prime Minister and the adjacent local governments

Fukushima Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefecture, Tochigi Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Aomori Prefecture, Akita Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Tokyo, Yamanashi Prefecture, and Shizuoka Prefecture

- (2) The local governments separately instructed depending on the status of the detection of radioactive materials

3. Items concerned

- (1) Items in which radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values have been found
 - i. Vegetables (those cultivated outdoor are selected on a priority basis)
Non-head type leafy vegetables (e.g. Spinach , Komatsuna); Turnip; Cabbage; Broccoli; Parsley; Japanese parsley; Ume; Log-grown shiitake (outdoor cultivation); Bamboo shoot; Ostrich fern; Raw tea leaf; Unrefined tea leaf; and Refined tea leaf
 - ii. Milk
Milk
 - iii. Fishery products
Sand lance; Whitebait; Greenling; Brown hakeling; Hen-clam; Blue mussel; Northern sea urchin; Wakame seaweed; Sea oak; Hijiki; Japanese smelt; Cherry salmon; Ayu; and Japanese dace
 - iv. Meat
Beef
- (2) Major items which take into account of the amount of the public consumption
(Reference) The items ranked high in the public consumption level in the National Health and Nutrition Survey (based on the survey of 2008)
Rice; Tea for drinking; Milk; Lightly colored vegetables (including Japanese radish, Cabbage, Chinese cabbage, Onion, and Cucumber); Deeply colored vegetables (including Carrot, Spinach, and Tomato); Egg; Pork; Potatos (including Potato, Sweat potato, and Satoimo); Citrus; Fruits (e.g. Apple, Grapes, and Nashi); Fishery products; Mushrooms; Chicken; and Algae
- (3) Items whose restriction of distribution was cancelled at the local government level
- (4) Items separately instructed by the government
- (5) Other items concerned
 - i. Major agricultural products which take into account of the status of production
 - ii. Foods distributed in the market (whose information on producers is identified)
As for the fisheries products that migrate in wide areas, the government separately instructs local governments.

4. The designation of inspection areas

In order to grasp the spread of radioactive contamination, local governments divide their prefectural areas into appropriate zones, based on the actual situations of production, the landing of captured fishes, and the labeling of origins. Samples are then collected in a multiple number of municipalities per zone concerned.

Inspections are implemented in a multiple number of municipalities within targeted inspection areas. Regarding the selection of the municipalities to be inspected, those where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation have been detected in foods are given priorities, and the concentration of cesium in soil and the results of environmental monitoring inspections are taken into consideration.

5. The frequency of inspections

Inspections are planned in accordance with the actual situations of the production and distribution and/or consumption of items and carried out on a regular basis (in principle, about once a week, by designating a day of the week). As for items whose distribution period is limited, they are inspected in a period from 3 days prior to the first distribution to an early stage of the distribution. Other items are regularly inspected.

However, when radioactive materials exceeding or close to the provisional regulation values are detected, inspections are strengthened.

The government may separately instruct local governments on the frequency of inspections as needed.

III. The requirements for establishing items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies by the government

1. Items

When it is considered that the areas producing the items exceeding the provisional regulation values have been spread out, relevant areas and items become subject to restriction.

2. Areas

Prefectural areas are inspected, as a rule, considering that the obligation of labeling origins regulated under the Japan Agricultural Standards is by the unit of prefecture. However, prefectures can be divided into a multiple number of areas if they can be administered by prefectures and municipalities.

3. Consideration for the establishment of restrictions

- (1) The establishment of restrictions is considered per item, based on inspection results.
- (2) For consideration of the establishment of restrictions, inspection results are consolidated and their applicability with the requirements is judged in a comprehensive way. Instructions for additional inspections are given as necessary.
- (3) When the territorial spread of items exceeding the provisional regulation values is uncertain, the surrounding areas are inspected to determine the need for the restriction of distribution and the areas where distribution is to be restricted.
- (4) When a significantly high level of concentration is detected in items, the restriction of consumption is immediately established, regardless of the number of samples collected for the items concerned.

IV. Cancellation of items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of food concerned applies by the government

1. Application for cancellations

The cancellations will be based on the application of the relevant local governments.

2. Areas in which cancellation applies.

Prefectures can be divided into a multiple zones, in the light of the actual situations of the shipments of the items.

3. Requirements for cancellations

(1) The restriction of distribution instructed based on the detected values of radioactive iodine

In principle, inspections are conducted in a multiple number of municipalities once a week per relevant zone, and the inspection results must indicate below the provisional regulation values for 3 consecutive times (Inspections must be conducted in municipalities where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation levels were detected in the past. In other municipalities, in principle, inspections shall not be conducted in the same municipalities where inspections were implemented before.)

(2) The restriction of distribution instructed based on the detected values of radioactive cesium

In principle, inspection results obtained at 3 or more points per municipality in each zone concerned within the last one month must all indicate below the provisional regulation values. (Inspections must be conducted in municipalities where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation levels were detected in the past).

The judgment of cancellation is determined in consideration with the status of the TEPCO's Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant.

4. Inspections following the cancellation of restrictions

When radioactive materials exceed the provisional regulation values following the implementation of the same inspections as in above 3, necessary measures are taken.

V. Other

The government may separately give instructions to local governments on the matters from I to V as needed.

Attachment: Handling of individual items

a. Vegetables, fruits, and the like

Attachment 1

b. Milk

Attachment 2

c. Tea leaf

Attachment 3

d. Fishery products

Attachment 4

e. Wheat, Barley, and the like

Attachment 5

f. Beef

Attachment 6

g. Rice

Attachment 7

Vegetables, fruits, and the like

1. Inspection planning for the local governments concerned

Inspections are conducted on the major items and at the major producing areas, during a period from 3 days prior to the first distribution to an early stage of the distribution, in principle. When there is no problem, inspections are implemented at regular intervals per month.

2. The establishment of items and areas to which the government imposes restrictions on distribution and/or consumption

(1) Areas

The restrictions of distribution and/or consumption can be established or cancelled by unit with a clear geographical scope, such as a city, town, and village, if the restrictions can be administered by prefectures and municipalities, by taking into account the unit of distribution.

(2) Items

In principle, restrictions are established or cancelled by item. Also, they can be established or cancelled by items' groups, by setting indicator produces. In addition, restrictions can be established or cancelled by cultivation method, if prefectures and municipalities can administer them by distinguishing those grown in hothouses from those cultivated outdoors.

3. The cancellation of items and areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

(1) Requirements for the cancellation

Taking into consideration that radioactive cesium in soil migrates to vegetables, fruits, and the like, requirements for cancelling restrictions of distribution and/or consumption shall be as follows:

- a. In order to cancel restrictions on items within specific areas, 3 or more sampling points are selected per municipality in areas in which the items concerned are produced. (to the extent possible, samples are obtained at the same points where those samples used to decide restrictions of distribution were collected).
- b. Samples are collected in each sampling point and inspected.
- c. Restrictions on the items and areas concerned are cancelled when the results of inspections carried out within the last month show below the provisional regulatory values (including not detectable) at all sampling points of the items concerned within areas where the cancellation is being considered.

If the shipments of the items concerned in restricted areas is finished, restrictions of distribution and/or consumption can be cancelled, based on inspection results obtained 3days prior to the next distribution begins.

(2) Measures to be taken following the cancellation of restrictions

Samples are regularly collected and inspected while distribution continues even after restrictions have been lifted, and the results are made public.

As for the frequency of inspections, inspections are conducted, in general, once per month, when inspection results of radioactive iodine and radioactive cesium obtained in the last month all indicate below the provisional regulatory values in a stable manner.

Milk

1. Inspection planning for the local governments concerned

(1) Collection of samples

Samples are collected by the unit of cooler station or dairy plant (or all those who directly distribute to dairy plant).

(2) The frequency of inspections

As a rule, samples are collected, in general, every 2 weeks on a continuous basis and inspected.

2. The requirements for establishing items and areas to which restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies by the government

(1) Areas

When prefectures are divided into a multiple number of areas, the restrictions of distribution and/or consumption can be established and/or cancelled by the unit of municipalities where cooler station or dairy plant(or all those who directly distribute to dairy plant) belong.

(2) Consideration for the establishment of restrictions

When, as a result of the inspections above 1, radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values are detected, the need for additional inspections, the necessity for the restriction of distribution, and restricted areas are assessed, by taking into account inspection results obtained in other areas.

3. The cancellation of items and areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

(1) Requirements for the cancellation

Samples are collected and analyzed by the unit of cooler station or dairy plant(or all those who directly distribute to dairy plant). When, as a result of the analyses meet criteria, restrictions of distribution and/or consumption are cancelled by the unit of municipalities where cooler station or dairy plant (or all those who directly distribute to dairy plant) belong.

Radioactive iodine shall become less than 100Bq/kg (including not detectable) for 3 consecutive times.

(2) Inspections following the cancellation of restrictions

Even after the restriction is cancelled, samples are collected and analyzed on a regular basis, and the results are made public.

As for the frequency of inspections, when inspection results of radioactive iodine and radioactive cesium obtained in the last month all indicate below the provisional regulatory values in a stable manner, the frequency of the inspections can generally be made to every 2 weeks.

Tea leaf

1. Inspection planning for the local governments concerned

Tea leaves are inspected per harvest period, such as first flush tea and second flush tea. In principle, unrefined tea leaves are inspected one or more times, during a period from 3 days prior to distribution to the initial stage of the distribution, in the main production areas.

2. Requirements for establishing items and/or areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

The restrictions of distribution and/or consumption can be established or cancelled by unit with a clear geographical scope, such as a city, town, and village, if the restrictions can be administered by prefectures and municipalities, by taking into account the unit of distribution.

3. Cancellation of items and/or areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

(1) Requirements for the cancellation of restrictions

In order to cancel the restrictions of distribution of tea leaves cultivated in the next and following harvest periods, samples are collected, in principle, at 3 or more places in a municipality in an area where the cancellation of the restriction is being considered (to the extent possible, the samples are obtained at the same points where those samples used to decide restrictions of distribution were collected). Inspections are conducted based on these samples.

The restriction of the distribution is cancelled when, as a result of the inspections, the concentration level of radioactive cesium becomes less than the provisional regulatory values (or not detectable, and such) at all sampling points in an area where the cancellation of the restriction is being considered.

(2) Measures to be taken after cancellation

Even after the restrictions are lifted, tea leaves are inspected per harvest period, and the results are made public.

Fishery products

1. The formulation of inspection plans and implementation of inspections

Inspections are conducted on the major items and at the major fishery sites in a planned manner as follows. When inspected, the items are distinguished between farmed-grown and naturally-grown ones, even when they are the same species.

(1) The designation of inspection areas

Inspection areas are designated as follows by taking into account the situations of the environmental monitoring.

1) Inland water fishes (e.g. Cherry salmon, Japanese smelt, and Ayu)

Prefectural areas are divided into appropriate zones, by taking into account of the ranges of fishery rights in rivers and lakes. Samples are then collected in the major areas per zone.

2) Coastal fishes

Prefectures' coasts are divided into appropriate zones, by taking into consideration of fishery sites and seasons of the fisheries concerned and in the lights of the actual situations of the landing of captured fishes and the fishery managements (e.g. the ranges covered by fishery rights and the detail of fishery permission). Samples are then collected at the major landing ports in the zones concerned.

The main items are selected per fishery season, by taking into consideration of the fish habitats such as surface layer (e.g. juvenile sand lance), middle layer (e.g. sea bass and sea bream), deep layer (e.g. founder and conger eel), and for seaweed.

3) Migratory fishes (e.g. bonito, sardine and mackerel, saury, salmon)

Fishery sites extending from Chiba Prefecture to Iwate Prefecture are divided by prefectural offshore, (demarked by the east due lines originating from each prefectures' borders), by taking into consideration of the migratory habitats of fishes concerned. Samples are then collected at the major landing ports in the zones concerned.

(2) The frequency of inspections

- 1) Inspections are carried out prior to the beginning of fishery seasons, by taking into consideration of the situation of the discharge of contaminated water from the nuclear power plant.
- 2) After the fishery seasons begin, inspections are conducted, in principle, once per week. When inspection results obtained in the last month indicate below the provisional regulatory values in a stable manner, the frequency of the inspections can be decreased (for example, to every 2 weeks).

2. The establishment of items and areas to which the government imposes restrictions on distribution and/or consumption

(1) Items and areas

In principle, the restrictions are established or cancelled by item and by the fishery site. Also, they can be established or cancelled with the distinction of farmed-grown fishes and naturally-grown ones.

In case the fish species is captured under the permission by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, such as the case of migratory fishes, instructions to restrict distribution and/or consumption are issued to the Minister.

(2) Consideration for the establishment of restrictions

The following inspections are implemented per fishery site and fish species. Depending on the inspection results, the need for the instruction to restrict distribution and the zones of fishery sites where distribution is to be restricted are determined. Furthermore, the spread of radioactive contamination will be investigated as necessary.

1) Inland water fishes

By taking into account the ranges covered by fishery rights at the fishery sites where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulatory values were detected, the surrounding fishery sites (e.g. upper and lower streams of rivers, and the main stream and branches of rivers) are inspected.

2) Coastal fishes

By taking into account the actual situations of the landing of captured fishes, permission of fishery, and the ranges covered by fishery rights at the fishery sites where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulatory values were detected, the surrounding fishery sites are inspected.

3) Migratory fishes

Considering the impact of the nuclear power plant accident, and fish behavior that fishery sites move as fishes migrate, fishery sites (per prefectural offshore) where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulatory values were detected or the surrounding fishery sites are inspected.

Note: When the restriction of distribution is established, an instruction is given to properly indicate the fishery sites when labeling origins of the fishes concerned.

3. Requirements for the cancellation of items and areas to which the government imposes restrictions on distribution and/or consumption

(1) Areas where cancellations are to be cancelled

The fishery sites where cancellations are applied can be divided into a multiple zones, by taking into consideration of the situations of the landing of captured fishes and the fishery management

(e.g. the ranges covered by fishery rights and the detail of fishery permission).

(2) Requirements for the cancellations

1) Inland water fishes

In order to cancel the restrictions at fishery sites, in principle, a multiple number of fishing points of the fishery areas where the cancellation to be applied shall be inspected every week in general (about 3 times), by taking into account the fluctuations in the situation of the radioactive contamination due to the weather condition . Then, the inspection results obtained within the last one month must all indicate below the provisional regulation values. Points where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values were detected in the past shall be inspected (unless the samples cannot be collected).

2) Coastal fishes

In order to cancel restrictions at fishery sites, in principle, inspection results obtained at 3 or more points where the cancellation to be applied (limited to those inspected within the last one month) must all indicate below the provisional regulation values. In cases of sedentary shellfish, crustaceans, and seaweed, and low-migratory species, such as demersal fishes, points where radioactive materials exceeding the provisional regulation values were detected in the past shall be inspected (unless the samples can be collected).

3) Migratory fishes

In order to cancel restrictions at fishery sites, as a rule, inspection results obtained at 3 or more points where the cancellation to be applied (limited to those inspected within the last month) must all indicate below the provisional regulation values.

When the fishes concerned can no longer be captured in the restricted zones due to the migration of fishes from the restricted zones to the outside or the end of fishery seasons, the restrictions of distribution can be cancelled, based on inspection results obtained before the next fishery seasons of fishes concerned begin.

(3) Measures to be taken following the cancellation of restrictions

When fishery operations continue after the restrictions are cancelled, inspections are conducted according to 1-(2)-2), and the results are made public.

Wheat, Barley, and the like

1. The plans and implementation of inspections for the local government concerned

Because almost entire wheat, barley, and the like are collected by agricultural cooperatives and sold to specific users, such as flour milling companies, safety can be checked by the unit of lot*. Therefore, inspections are conducted by the lot unit at the country elevators or storage warehouses.

*The lots for inspections are set up by the type of cereal per commercial collector, such as agricultural cooperatives. The lots are established by storage silo at country elevators. When the lots stored at storage warehouses, they are generally established with an upper limit of about 300 tons.

2. The implementation of inspections for all lots and measures to be taken based on inspection results

(1) The implementation method for all lots

The local governments implement inspections on all lots in areas where the following applies:

- The air radiation dose rates measured during the season of developing and blooming of wheat ears exceed the normal backgrounds (the level in which the air radiation dose rate becomes 0.1 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ when it is calculated to two decimal places and rounded down to one decimal place); or
- The concentration of radioactive cesium in farmland soil (sampled at the depth of 15 cm from the surface soil) is 1,000 Bq/kg or above.

In addition, in areas other than the above, when the results of the first lot inspections carried out by the local governments exceed certain levels, they shall also inspect all lots.

(2) Measures to be taken based on inspection results

The lots which exceed the provisional regulation values based on the inspection results shall not be sold, in accordance with the Food Sanitation Act (restrictions of distribution based on the Act on Special Measures concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness are not applicable).

Beef

1. Cancellation of items and/or areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

The cancellation of shipment restriction related to beef exceeding the provisional regulation values due to rice straw contaminated by high concentrations of radioactive cesium shall be approved, if an appropriate feeding control is fully enforced after shipment restrictions are instructed, and applications for the partial cancellation of shipment restrictions are filed based on the setting up of the following safety management system for beef.

- (1) In specifically designated areas, all cattle will be subject to testing. Only those beefs whose levels of radioactive cesium fall below the provisional regulation values will be approved for sale.
- (2) In areas other than (1), all livestock farms will be subject to testing, in which at least one head of cattle will be tested in each farm in the first shipment. Only those farmers whose tested cattle show the levels of radioactive cesium sufficiently below the provisional regulation values will be approved to ship and slaughter their cattle. These farmers will continue to be subject to regular testing following such approval.

Rice

1. Inspection planning for the local governments concerned

Inspections of rice shall be implemented per municipality before its shipment begins.

In this case, the local governments concerned shall determine municipalities subject to inspections and the number of the inspections, by taking into account the outcomes of investigations implemented prior to the harvesting of rice with consideration for the concentrations of cesium in soil and the results of environmental monitoring inspections.

2. Requirements for establishing items and/or areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

The restrictions of distribution and/or consumption can be established by unit with a clear geographical scope, such as municipalities or, former municipalities, if such restrictions can be administered by prefectures and municipalities.

3. Cancellation of items and/or areas to which the government imposes restrictions of distribution and/or consumption

The restrictions of distribution of rice produced in fiscal year 2011 shall not be cancelled.