

Ensuring Food Safety and Proper Control of Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Pertaining to Case No. 114

(Notice Ei-shoku No. 102, Yaku No. 999 of December 20th, 1984)

As reported in the press, Case No. 114 occurred recently, in which a warning of tainted foods sold in grocery stores containing a cyanide compound (sodium cyanide) was issued (a case of intimidation of food companies). Although the police have been investigating this criminal case, it remains unsolved.

In view of the situation, we shall take all possible measures to ensure food safety and control poisonous and deleterious substances properly to prevent harm by taking the following items into consideration. We ask for everyone's extensive cooperation.

I Ensure Complete Food Safety and Control

To ensure the safety and hygiene of food products, etc., we have requested the supervision of and guidance on food-related business facilities including the implementation of a year-end general tightening with the Notice Ei-shoku No. 84 dated November 9, 1984. Given the importance of this case and for the future supervision of and guidance on foods to prevent accidents, the following items shall be carefully considered.

- 1 Check abnormal package conditions as well as food labeling during the monitoring of grocery stores.
- 2 When an abnormal food product is found, remove the product in question if necessary and determine the presence or absence of poisonous and/or deleterious substances.
- 3 Provide grocery operators with directions on placing strict controls on products, particularly for periodical inspections of goods (by checking package conditions, dates of packing, lots and others).

II Ensure Complete Storage and Control of Poisonous and Deleterious Substances

We have requested business operators relating to such poisonous and deleterious substances as cyanide to ensure strict storage and control and local prefectural governments to conduct monitoring and direction with the Notice Yaku No. 865 dated November 5, 1984. Local prefectural governments shall make sure that all parties concerned understand the following items and take all possible measures to ensure complete storage and control of poisonous and deleterious substances.

1 Conducting focused monitoring and direction

Conduct focused monitoring and direction especially for poisonous and deleterious substance business operators who produce* and sell cyanide compounds including sodium cyanide and those who handle these compounds in the course of their work.

(* In this case, the verb “produce” includes the meaning of “import”; the same applies hereinafter.)

2 Strengthening the systems for controlling poisonous and deleterious substance business operators

Poisonous and deleterious substance managers and business operators shall instruct their persons responsible for handling poisonous and deleterious substances or responsible persons in relevant administration to ascertain the workable or inventory quantities of poisonous and deleterious substances produced, sold or used and strengthen the systems for checking the storage and control of poisonous and deleterious substances in companies including the preparation and management of necessary documents.

3 Securing thorough anti-theft measures

Take all possible measures to prevent robbery and theft of poisonous and deleterious substances by thoroughly rechecking storage facilities and inventory locations, separating poisonous and deleterious substances from other things for storage, and properly disposing of waste substances.

4 Carefully following precautions at the time of delivery

If poisonous and deleterious substance dealers and the like deliver poisonous and deleterious substances such as sodium cyanide to anyone other than those who constantly do business with the dealers, the dealers in question shall carefully confirm the identity of the person to whom substances are delivered and the purpose of use, and shall not deliver such substances to someone whose intended usage is questionable in view of his or her profession and other matters, or whose ability to handle the substances safely is questionable.

Furthermore, suspicious activities of this kind shall be promptly reported to the police.