

The fact-finding survey on the sale, etc. of existing food additives

Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

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This document is the English translation of Notice YakuSeiSyoku-Ki No. 0627-1 (薬生食基発0627第1号) “既存添加物の販売等の実態調査について (周知依頼)” of 27 June 2018. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare offers this translation as a service to a broad international audience. While the ministry has attempted to obtain translation that is as faithful as possible to the Japanese version, we recognize that the translated version may not be as precise, clear, or complete as the original version. The official version of this document is the Japanese version.

The fact-finding survey on the sale, etc. of existing food additives

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) surveyed the actual conditions of the sale, manufacturing, import, processing, use, storage, and display (hereinafter referred to as “the sale, etc.”) of 196 existing food additives that may not be distributed for the sale, etc. under “The survey on the sale, etc. of existing food additives concerning preparation of the list of food additives to be withdrawn from the List of Existing Food Additives” (Notice YakuSeiSyoku-Ki No. 1222-1 of December 22, 2017; hereinafter referred to as “the 2017 survey”).

As the result, for 68 existing food additives listed in Appendix 1, documents that were sufficient to confirm the actual conditions of the sale, etc. as additives were not submitted, and the MHLW determined to resurvey about those additives on the actual conditions of the sale, etc. by expanding the survey area into overseas.

The MHLW ask you, therefore, in the same way as the 2017 survey, to inform the business persons^{*1} who sell existing food additives, or preparations or foods containing them (hereinafter referred to as “existing food additives etc.”) in your jurisdiction, using means such as sending a copy of Implementation Guideline (Attachment), that they need to submit a notification using Appendix 2-1 and 2-2 if they sell, manufacture, import, process, use, store or display the existing food additives listed in Appendix 1. Please note that regarding the additives of which the actual conditions of the sale, etc. will be notified using the Appendix 2-1 and 2-2, the MHLW may ask the applicants to confirm the content of the notification or to submit additional information, etc.

The MHLW has made this matter widely known by informing export countries to Japan via the embassies and delegations in Japan. In the same way as the 2017 survey, the MHLW has also informed this matter by posting on the website of the MHLW^{*2}, by putting up on bulletin boards of quarantine stations, and by other measures. In addition, the MHLW already requested Japan Food Hygiene Association; Japan Food Industry Association; Association for the Safety of Imported Food, Japan; Japan Health and Nutrition Food Association; and Japan Food Additives Association to inform persons involved such as their members of this matter. There are many instances however, that business persons who do not belong to these associations sell the existing food additives etc. We ask you to take some measures to make this information reach to such business persons.

This survey is aimed to grasp the actual conditions of the sale, etc. of the substances listed in Appendix 1, limiting the use as additives. The substances used only for foods,

utensils, and containers and packaging are not necessary to be notified. It is also not required to report that there are no sales conditions, etc. on the targeted substances. In addition, please note that the MHLW is planning to consider establishing specifications for the additives whose distribution or use will be confirmed from the results of the 2017 survey and this survey pursuant to Article 11 of the Food Sanitation Act.

*1 The business persons and others who engage in the business prescribed in Article 35 of Order for Enforcement of the Food Sanitation Act (Cabinet Order No. 229 of 1953)

*2 URL of Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, MHLW (“Food additives”)

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/foodadditives/index.html>