

**Inspection Results of Imported Foods
Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2007**

Interim Report

**Department of Food Safety,
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
November 2007**

Inspection results Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2007 (An interim report)

1. Introduction

In order to monitor and provide instructions to ensure the safety of foods, etc., imported into Japan (hereafter referred to as “imported foods, etc.”), the government established the imported food monitoring and instruction program in 2007 (hereinafter, “the program”). The program is based on the guidelines for monitoring and providing instructions in food sanitation (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notification No. 301, 2003) as per the regulations of Article 23, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law (Law No. 233, 1947; hereinafter, “the Law”); public comments were collected and risk communication was conducted. The program was published in the Official Gazette as an official report according to the regulations of Paragraph 3 of the same article, and the monitoring and instruction for imported foods, etc., is being conducted based upon the Program.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will publish an outline of the implementation status of the monitoring and instruction for imported foods, etc., conducted in accordance with the program, by June of the next year and will also publish the mid-year status around the middle of the fiscal year. An interim report on the results of the inspections conducted based on the program from April to September, 2007, which were summarized recently, will be published.

Reference: Website on “imported food monitoring operation”

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/yunyvu/tp0130-1.html>

Inquiry: Office of Import Food Safety, Inspection and Safety Division, Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau



2. Outline of the imported food monitoring and instruction program in FY 2007

① What is the imported food monitoring and instruction program?

This is a program implemented by the government for food monitoring and instruction with regard to imported foods, etc. (Article 23 of the Law)

[Aim] The government promotes intensive, effective, and efficient implementation of inspections at the time of import and monitoring/instruction, etc. for importers and attempts to ensure further safety of imported foods, etc.

② The basic concept of the monitoring and instruction program for imported foods, etc.

In line with Article 4 of the Food Safety Basic Law (Law No. 48, 2003) (Food safety must be ensured through appropriate measures conducted at each stage of the food supply process at both nationally and internationally), a program is established to ensure the implementation of hygienic measures at 3 stages (export countries, import, and domestic distribution).

③ Items subject to intensive monitoring and instruction

- Assessment of any violation of the Law at the time of import declaration.
- Monitoring inspection ^{*1} (124 food groups and approximately 79,000 articles was scheduled in 2007)
- Inspection order ^{*2} (15 articles in all countries and 186 articles in 30 countries and 1 region as of September 30, 2007)
- Comprehensive prohibition regulations ^{*3}
- Emergent measures based on foreign information, etc.

④ Promotion of hygienic measures in export countries

- To direct the governments of exporting countries to establish hygienic management measures.
- To intensify and promote the management and monitoring system for pesticides, etc., for inspection prior to export through field investigations and bilateral talks.

⑤ Instructions for importers regarding voluntary implementation of hygiene management measures

- Pre-import instructions (practically, consultation about import)
- Instructions on voluntary inspection to be performed at the time of initial import and on a regular basis
- Instructions on the storage of documents
- Education of importers with regard to food sanitation, etc.

*1: A well-planned inspection based on statistical ideas with consideration to import volume, violation rate, etc., for each food article (Article 28 of the Law)

*2: Inspection at each instance of import is made mandatory for products with a high probability of violation, and a product not passed to inspection is prohibited from import and distribution (Article 26 of the Law).

*3: A regulation that can ban distribution and import without inspection if considered necessary with regard to hazard prevention (Articles 8 and 17 of the Law)

3. Inspection results of the imported food monitoring and instruction program in 2007 (an interim report)

Table 1 Notification, inspection and violation statuses (April–September 2007: Preliminary figures)

No. of notifications	Amount of import	No. of inspections *1	Percentage *2	No. of violations	Percentage *2
Cases 914,373	1,000 tons 12,226	Cases 100,948	% 11.0	Cases 619	% 0.07
(Records of the previous FY) 923,968	12,416	94,920	10.2	629	0.07

*1 Values obtained after excluding overlapping cases from the total values of monitoring inspection, inspection order, instructive inspection, etc.

*2 Percentage of the number of inspections to the number of notifications

Table 2 Major violation cases (April–September 2007: Preliminary figures)

Violated article	Number of violations	Component percentage	Major violations
Article 6 (Distribution of prohibited foods and additives)	Cases 118	% 18.5	Aflatoxin-contaminated corn, pearl-barley, peanut, almond, sesame, etc.; cyanide-contaminated cassava; Listeria-contaminated meat products; contamination with toxic fish; detection of diarrhetic/paralytic shellfish toxin; and decay, deterioration and fungus formation due to accidents during rice transport
Article 9 (Limitation on distribution, etc. of diseased meat, etc.)	1	0.2	No hygiene certificate attached
Article 10 (Limitation on distribution, etc. of additives, etc.)	31	4.9	Processed foods that contain additives such as cyclamate, tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), polysorbate, patent blue V, azorubin, or any other additives not designated for use as additives
Article 11 (Standards and specifications for foods or additives)	479	75.2	Violation of specifications for vegetable and dried vegetable (violation of standards for residual pesticides); violation of specifications for seafood and its processed products (inclusion of antibacterial substances, and violation of standards for residual pesticides); violation of specifications for frozen foods (viable cell count, <i>Escherichia coli</i> and coliform bacilli); violation of standards for usage of additives (sorbic acid, benzoic acid, etc); excessive amount of residual additives(sulfur dioxide, etc.)
Article 18 (Standards and specifications for instruments and containers/packages)	8	1.3	Violation of specifications/standards for instruments and containers/packages; violation of specifications for each raw material
Total	637 (total number) 619 (number of notified violations)		

Table 3 Implementation status of monitoring inspection (April–September 2007: Preliminary figures)

Food type	Category of inspection items *2	Number of programs planned in the FY*	Number of programs implemented	Number of violations
Livestock foods Beef, pork, chicken, horse meat, poultry meat, and other meats	Antibacterial substances	2,850	1,379	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,700	1,207	0
	Standards for constituents	-	117	0
	Confirmation of removal of SRM	650	352	0
Processed livestock foods Natural cheeses, processed meat products, ice cream, frozen products (meat products), and other products	Antibacterial substances	-	2,367	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,050	573	2
	Additives	-	11	0
	Standards for constituents	1,150	1,029	0
Seafood products Bivalves, fish, shellfish (shrimps, prawns, crabs) and other products	Antibacterial substances	2,250	1,039	3
	Residual agricultural chemicals	3,150	1235	1
	Additives	750	948	8
	Standards for constituents	300	141	0
Processed seafood Processed fish products (fillet, dried or minced fish, etc.), frozen products (aquatic animals and fish), processed fish roe products, and other products	Antibacterial substances	900	476	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	4,100	2,342	3
	Additives	250	1,067	0
	Standards for constituents	2,450	1,951	1
Agricultural foods Vegetables, fruit, wheat, barley, corn, beans, peanuts, nuts, seeds, and other products	Antibacterial substances	6,000	3,273	35
	Residual agricultural chemicals	700	270	0
	Additives	18,200	7,830	21
	Standards for constituents	600	374	2
	Mycotoxins	850	595	0
	GMOs	2,200	1,296	0
Processed agricultural foods Frozen products (processed vegetables), processed vegetable products, processed fruit products, spices, instant noodles, and other products	Residual agricultural chemicals	1,550	596	0
	Additives	-	7	0
	Standards for constituents	5,000	2,052	12
	Mycotoxins	4,400	2,607	4
	GMOs	2,200	1,351	11
Other foods Health foods, soups, flavorings, seasonings, sweets, edible oils, fat, frozen products, and other products	Antibacterial substances	2,250	966	0
	Residual agricultural chemicals	200	76	2
	Additives	300	1	0
	Standards for constituents	250	20	0
	Mycotoxins	3,050	1,507	1
	GMOs	700	576	5
Drinks and beverages Mineral water, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and other products	Residual agricultural chemicals	600	176	1
	Additives	-	4	0
	Standards for constituents	300	99	0
	Mycotoxins	900	649	0
Additives Equipment, containers and packages Toys	Standards for constituents	900	436	2
Total (number)	5,000 programs were recorded in the total number of programs in the fiscal year as that for inspection reinforcement.	79,300	41,592 Rate of programs implemented to planned = ~52%	114

* The approximate number of programs counted by each test item such as antibiotics and pesticides in food products is shown.

Table 4 Items subject to reinforcement of monitoring inspection, etc. ^{*1} (April–September 2007 ^{*2})

Countries/Regions	Subject foods	Test items
China	Carrots	Methamidophos Triadimenol
	Cloud ear mushrooms	Fenpropathrin
	Garlic stems	Imazalil
	Indian mustard, asparagus	Propham
	Flounder, royal jelly	Furazolidone
	Kale	Atrazine
	Qing-geng-cai	Famoxadone
	Gingers ^{*3}	Aldicarb Aldicarb sulfoxide Aldoxycarb
	Komatsuna (<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>peruviridis</i>)	Lufenuron
	Processed short-necked clams	Chloramphenicol
	Persimmon leaves	Carbendazim Thiophanate Thiophanate methyl Benomyl
	Filefish dried products	Pufferfish contamination
	Plant-derived protein products ^{*3}	Melamine
Glycerin ^{*3}	Diethylene glycol	
Processed food ^{*3}	Dulcin	
Thailand	Banana	Cypermethrin
	Lemon grass	EPN
	Soft-shelled turtles	Malachite green
Indonesia	Spinaches	Cyfluthrin
	Green chili	Difenoconazole
New Zealand	Leeks	Alachlor
	Red chili	Lfenuron
Brazil	Soy beans	Pirimiphos-methyl
	Wheat	Methamidophos
India	Cumin seeds	Iprobenfos Profenofos
Ethiopia	Coffee beans	Atrazine
Australia	Buckwheat noodle	Chlorpyrifos Dimethoate
Colombia	Coffee beans	Chlorpyrifos
Taiwan	Rice	Methamidophos
Turkey	Sesame seeds	Carbaryl
Philippines	Okra	Tebufenozide Methamidophos
France	Red currant	Flusilazole
Vietnam	Rice	Acetamiprid
Hong Kong	Cloud ear mushrooms	Fenpropathrin
Mexico	Cherimoya	Monocrotophos

*1 These items are subjected to inspection reinforcement after a violation is detected; this is usually done for 30% of the total number of notifications.

*2 Excludes items included in Table 5.

*3 Items newly monitored in response to overseas reports (April–September 2007)

Table 5 Items applied to inspection order (April–September, 2007)

Countries/Regions	Subject foods	Test items
China	Green peppers	Pyrimethanil
	Processed mackerel	Malachite green
	Immature kidney beans	Fenpropathrin
	Green soybeans	Propham
	Garlic stems	Pyrimethanil
	Honey	Chloramphenicol
Thailand	Okra	Dinotefuran EPN
South Korea	Corbicula clams, Agemaki clams [<i>Sinonovacula constricta</i>]	Endosulfan
India	Mangoes	Chlorpyrifos
France	Unheated meat products	Listeria

Table 6 Items subject to inspection order and inspection results (April–September 2007: Preliminary figures)

Countries/ Regions	Main subject foods	Main test items	Number of tests	Number of violations
All exporters (15 items)	Peanuts, chili peppers, nuts, pearl barley, figs, etc.	Aflatoxin	4,414	20
	Salted salmon roe	Root nitrite, etc.	312	3
	Puffer fish	Fish species identification	2	0
	Cyanide-containing beans, cassavas	Cyanide	248	6
China (46 items)	Shrimps, eels, mackerel, corbicula clams, royal jelly, etc.	Tetracyclines antibiotics, Malachite green, Enrofloxacin, etc	7,812	24
	Matsutake mushrooms, Japanese leeks, Shiitake mushrooms, large peanuts, immature kidney beans, etc	Acetochlor, Tebufenozide, Fenpropathrin, etc.	14,312	42
	Clams	Paralytic shellfish toxin, etc	1,798	24
	Buckwheat noodle	Aflatoxin	404	0
	Processed eel products, etc.	Coliform bacteria, etc	1,160	3
	All processed products	Cyclamate	1,668	1
Thailand (24 items)	Shrimps	Oxolinic acid	1,790	0
	Okra, mangoes, acacias, water mimosa [<i>Neptunia oleracea</i>], etc.	Chlorpyrifos, Dinotefuran, EPN, etc	446	1
	Basil seeds	Aflatoxin	4	1
Korea (20 items)	Paprikas, red peppers, corbicula clams, etc.	Chlorpyrifos, Ethoprophos, Endosulfan, etc.	102	1
	Clams, etc.	Paralytic shellfish toxin, etc.	2,159	2
	Ark shells to be eaten raw	Vibrio parahaemolyticus	13	0
Taiwan (16 items)	Eels, royal jelly, soft-shelled turtles, etc.	Furaladone, Furazolidone, Chloramphenicol, etc.	2,808	2
	Oolong tea, mangoes, leeks, dasheen, etc.	Bromopropylate, Cypermethrin, Chlorpyrifos etc.	296	8
	All processed products	Cyclamate	41	0
U.S. (12 items)	Corn, parsley, artichoke, spinach, etc.	Primingphos-methyl, Chlorpyrifos, Fenvalerate, etc	195	1
	Corn, almonds, apple juice	Aflatoxin, Patulin	1,997	38
Vietnam (5 items)	Shrimps, cuttlefish, etc.	Chloramphenicol, Furazolidone, etc.	5,741	56
	Spinach	Indoxacarb	91	0
	Sesame	Aflatoxin	21	1
	All processed products	Cyclamic acid	51	0
Others (25 countries, 46 items)			4,852	58
Total			52,737	292

Table 7 Major cases in which monitoring was reinforced based on foreign information (April–September 2007)

Month of reinforcement	Country	Food and contents	Background and measurement status
May	China	Plant-derived protein products, etc. (may contain melamine)	Measures were taken to inspect every import of Chinese-produced plant-derived protein products for any contamination with melamine-related compounds, in response to a report from the US regarding the occurrence of fatal incidents involving dogs and cats given feed made of Chinese-produced wheat gluten and concentrated rice protein, which was later found to be contaminated with melamine.
May	China	Glycerin (may contain diethylene glycol)	Concerned personnel were instructed to voluntarily inspect every import of Chinese-produced glycerin for the compliance of ingredient specifications and every import of Chinese-produced food products made of glycerin for any contamination with diethylene glycol, in response to a report from Panama regarding fatal incidents involving those who took medications made of Chinese-produced glycerin, which was later found to be contaminated with diethylene glycol.
May	China	Goosefish (may contain puffer fish)	Concerned personnel were instructed to carry out thorough fish species identification for each import notification of Chinese-produced goosefish, in response to a report from the US regarding the occurrence of food poisoning after consuming mislabeled puffer fish sold as Chinese-produced goosefish.
May	Canada/ US	Pepper/sesame paste (may be contaminated with Salmonella)	Measures of return shipment were taken for each import notification of such products, based on information regarding product recall in Canada.
August	Switzer- land	Guar gum (may be contaminated with dioxins)	Measures of return shipment were taken for each import notification of such products, based on information regarding product recall in Switzerland.
August	China	Candies (may be contaminated with formaldehyde)	Concerned personnel were instructed to voluntarily inspect Chinese-produced candies, in response to a report from Indonesia regarding the detection of formaldehyde from Chinese-produced candies.
August	US	Seafood dip (may be contaminated with Listeria)	Measures of return shipment were taken for each import notification of such products, based on information regarding product recall in the US.
August	Canada	Salami (may be contaminated with Salmonella)	Measures of return shipment were taken for each import notification of such products, based on information regarding product recall in Canada.
September	Thailand	Baby corn (may be contaminated with Shigella)	Guidelines were issued not to sell or use such products when they were found, in response to a report from Denmark and Australia regarding the occurrence of food poisoning after consuming Thai-produced baby corn.

(Reference) A description of key terms in the interim report

Terms	Descriptions
Sodium nitrite	Additive (color-fixing agent) whose maximum residual amounts as root nitrite are defined
Acetochlor	Pesticide (anilide herbicide)
Azorubin	Undesignated additive (coloring agent)
Atrazine	Pesticide (triazine herbicide)
Aflatoxin	Fungal toxin (produced by the fungus <i>Aspergillus</i> , etc.)
Alachlor	Pesticide (triazine herbicide)
Aldicarb, Aldicarb sulfoxide, Aldoxycarb	Pesticide (carbamate herbicide)
Benzoic acid	Additive (preservative)
Gene modification	A technique in which a part of a gene of a bacterium, etc., is segmented, and the constituent elements are recombined and returned to the gene of the original organism or recombined with a gene of another organism
Iprobenfos	Pesticide (organophosphorus fungicide)
Indoxacarb	Pesticide (oxadiazon insecticide)
Ethoprophos	Pesticide (organophosphorus fungicide)
Endosulfan	Pesticide (organochlorine insecticide)
Enrofloxacin	Synthetic antibacterial agent (new quinolone)
Oxolinic acid	Synthetic antibacterial agent (Quinolone)
Carbendazim, Thiophanate, Thiophanate methyl, Benomyl	Pesticide (benzimidazole fungicide)
Glycerin	Additive (sweetener), also used as a solvent for additives
Chloramphenicol	Antibiotic (chloramphenicol)
Chlorpyrifos	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Diarrhetic shellfish toxin	Shellfish toxin (mainly refers to toxins produced by a harmful plankton accumulated in clams; toxic clams cause diarrhetic poisoning)
Cyclamate	Undesignated additive (sweetener)
Cyanide	Cyanide-related compounds (e.g., cyanogenic glycoside) found in vegetables such as some varieties of beans
Diethylene glycol	Chemical substance used as industrial antifreezers and solvents
Difenoconazole	Pesticide (nitrogen-containing bactericide)
Cyfluthrin	Pesticide (pyrethroid insecticide)
Cypermethrin	Pesticide (pyrethroid insecticide)
Dimethoate	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Dulcin	Undesignated additive (sweetener)
Sorbic acid	Additive (preservative)
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>	Pathogenic microorganism (normal flora in seawater, a <i>Vibrio</i> species that mainly contaminates fishes and shellfishes and causes acute gastroenteritis)
Tetracycline	Antibiotic (mainly refers to tetracycline antibiotics)

Tebufenozide	Pesticide (benzoyl hydrazide insecticide)
Triadimenol	Pesticide (nitrogen containing fungicide)
Sulfur dioxide	Additive (antioxidant)
Patulin	Fungal toxin (toxin produced by the fungi <i>Penicillium</i> , <i>Aspergillus</i> , etc.)
Patent blue V	Undesignated additive (coloring agent)
Pirimiphos-methyl	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Pyrimethanil	Pesticide (anilinopyrimidine fungicide)
Fenpropathrin	Pesticide (pyrethroid insecticide)
Furazolidone	Animal drug (nitrofurantoin synthetic antibacterial agent); generates AOZ when metabolized
Furaltadone	Animal drug (nitrofurantoin synthetic antibacterial agent); generates AMOZ when metabolized
Propham	Pesticide (carbamate herbicide)
Profenofos	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Bromopropylate	Pesticide (organochlorine insecticide)
Flusilazole	Pesticide (nitrogen containing bactericide)
Polysorbate	Undesignated additive (emulsifying agent)
Paralytic shellfish poison	Shellfish poison (mainly refers to toxins produced by a harmful plankton accumulated in clams, toxic clams cause paralytic poisoning)
Malachite green	Synthetic antibacterial agent (triphenylmethane synthetic antibacterial agent)
Methamidophos	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Melamine	A chemical substance used as a primary raw material of melamine resin
Monocrotophos	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
Listeria monocytogenes	Pathogenic microorganism (a normal flora in the natural environment that contaminates milk products and causes listeriosis)
Lfenuron	Pesticide (benzoyl urea insecticide)
EPN	Pesticide (organophosphorus insecticide)
SRM	Parts of a cow (the head [excluding tongue and cheek meat], the spinal cord, vertebral column, and ileum [up to a 2-m region from its connection with the cecum]) indicating the accumulation of an abnormal prion protein that is a possible causative agent of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).
TBHQ	Undesignated additive (antioxidant)