Overview of Food Safety Control System in Japan
~an overview of the role of MHLW~

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Today’s Topics

1. Administration system for food safety in Japan

2. Ensuring Safety of Imported Food
1. Administration system for food safety in Japan
Risk Analysis in Japan

Risk Assessment
Food Safety Commission

Risk Management
MHLW / MAFF

Risk Communication
MHLW: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
MAFF: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
CAA: Consumer Affairs Agency
Role sharing of Food Safety (Risk Analysis)

**Risk Assessment**
- Implementation of risk assessment
  Assess the probability and extent of adverse impacts of hazardous substances in food.
- Food Safety Commission
- Food Safety Basic Law

**Risk Management**
- Sets standards for chemicals in food.
- Monitors compliance.
- MHLW
- Food Sanitation Act, etc.

- Registers agricultural chemicals.
- Approves and controls Veterinary drugs and their uses.
- Set standards for feed.
- MAFF
- Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act
- Act on Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds, etc.

**Risk Communication**
- Disclosure of food safety related information
- Opportunities for the consumers to express their views
**Structure of Food Sanitation Administration**
~ mainly in the MHLW ~

- **Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)**
  - 32 Quarantine Stations
    - To ensure the safety of import foods
    - Registration (cancellation) for Registered inspection organizations
  - 7 Local Bureaus of Health and Welfares
    - Approval and inspections on HACCP facilities
    - Registration (cancellation) for Registered inspection organizations

**Local Governments**
- 47 Prefectures, 70 Cities with health centers, and 23 Wards (Tokyo)

- **494 Health Centers**
  - Business licensing
  - Inspection, surveillance and guidance
  - Sampling
  - Administrative order
  - Investigation
  - Consultation, handling of claims
2. Ensuring Safety of Imported Food
Food Self-sufficiency Rate

Imported food accounts for about 60% of food in Japan.

*Japan's self-sufficiency is about 40% (on a caloric basis.)
Food Import Status in Japan

The number of import notifications
Weight of the imports

- 2,180,000 cases
- 32,150,000 tons

(Unit: ten thousand)
(million tons)
Quarantine Stations in Japan

- 32 quarantine stations to submit import notifications of food and related products
- 6 quarantine stations with inspection divisions
  - *Imported food inspection center

399 food sanitation monitors

* As of FY 2013
# Outline of the Monitoring System for Imported Food

## I. For Exporting Countries
1. Promoting Sanitation Measures in Exporting Countries
   - Appropriate use of agricultural chemicals
   - Issuing certifications
   - Implementation of examination before exporting
2. Bilateral Discussion
3. On-site inspection

## II. Border Control in Importing
1. Assessment by Quarantine Stations
2. Import Inspection System
   - Ordered inspection
   - Monitoring inspection
   - Voluntary inspection guidance

## III. Post-importation Measures
1. Hygienic Inspection based on the Prefectural Plan for Monitoring and Guidance on Food Sanitation
2. Report to the Central Government by Local Government
Outline of the Import Inspection System

Comprehensive Import Prohibition

- Ordered Inspection
- Strengthening Monitoring Inspections
- Monitoring inspections & Voluntary inspections

# of Inspection: 220,000
# of Notification: 2,180,000
Cancellation Requirements

Inspection order
(e.g.) Parsley: difenoconazole: Italy
Horseradish: difenoconazole: Australia

MHLW has confirmed the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken by the exporting country.

- No violations for two years (e.g. residual agricultural chemicals)
- No violations in 300 inspections for one year (e.g. residual agricultural chemicals)

Reinforcement of monitoring inspection (30%)

- No violations for one year
- No violations in 60 inspections

Normal monitoring inspection
※ e.g. Leek: difenoconazole: Belgium
Recall system of violating foods in Japan

Individual prefectures
- Detection of violation
  - Inspections at individual prefectures
  - Food poisoning

Notification

MHLW
- the website

Other prefectures
- Provide Information

Other Agencies
- MAFF
- CAA

Information sharing regarding food poisoning outbreak

If necessary, order recall

Manufacture

Surveillance

Report
Information Sources

Further information can be found on the Ministry’s food safety website:

Policy Information on Food Safety

Imported Foods Inspection Services Home Page
(1) Import Procedure under Food Sanitation Act
(2) Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan
(3) Inspection Orders
(4) Monitoring Plan
http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/index.html

Thank you for your attention