

Amendment to the Enforcement Ordinance of the Food Sanitation Law and the Standards and Specifications for Foods and Food Additives

The government of Japan will revise the current standards for use of Calcium Carbonate.

Summary

Under Article 10 of the Food Sanitation Law (Act No. 233, 1947) (hereinafter referred to as the “Law”), food additives shall not be used or marketed without authorization by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as “the Minister”). In addition, when specifications or standards are established for food additives based on Article 11 of the Law and stipulated in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notification (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370, 1959), those additives shall not be used or marketed unless they meet the standards or specifications.

In response to a request from the Minister, the Committee on Food Additives of the Food Sanitation Council that is established under the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council has discussed the adequacy of the designation of Calcium Carbonate as a food additive. The conclusion of the committee is outlined below.

Outline of conclusion

The Minister should revise the existing standards for use of Calcium Carbonate, based on Article 11. (see Attachment).

Attachment

Calcium Carbonate

炭酸カルシウム

Current regulations

Calcium Carbonate is permitted for use only when indispensable for manufacturing or processing the food, or when used for nutritive purposes.

The maximum use limit (as calcium) is 10% by weight in chewing gum and 0.1% in the other foods. These limits are, however, not applied to foods approved to be labeled as “special dietary use”.

Revised regulations

The existing use standards will be withdrawn.