

Overview of proposed revisions to the "Labelling Standard for Liquors Made from Organic Agricultural Products and Others"

1. Addition of an agricultural product subject to the labelling for liquors concerning genetic modification

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued a public notice on December 1, 2011, to the effect that the examination procedure of safety regarding genetically modified papayas has been terminated. In response to this, it has become possible to manufacture liquors using genetically modified papayas as an ingredient. Therefore, the National Tax Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the NTA") will add "papaya" to the agricultural products subject to the labelling for liquors concerning genetic modification listed in the Table 3 of the Standard.

2. Revision to the Standard of production methods for organic agricultural and livestock product processed liquors

Given the proposed revision of the "Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Processed Foods" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the NTA, in relation to matters concerning liquors, will:

- (1) make the products such as non-organic agricultural and livestock products usable as ingredients, only in cases where organic agricultural and livestock products and others are difficult to obtain ;
- (2) make it possible to count the products as organic materials, in cases where the said products are graded as organic processed foods and are used as additives, for the purpose of calculating the ratio of organic ingredients over all the ingredients ;
- (3) newly enable the use of chemical agents listed in the Table 2 of the standard even in cases where the said chemical agents are produced by using DNA manipulation technology, taking into account that the said chemical agents are not directly used for organic agricultural and livestock product processed liquors ; and
- (4) newly enable the use of chemical agents not listed in the Table 2 of the standard for the sake of pest control in factories during the period when organic agricultural and livestock product processed liquors are neither manufactured nor stored in the said factories.

3. Revision of food additives and medical agents usable for manufacturing organic agricultural and livestock product processed liquors

Following the planned revision of the "Japanese Agricultural Standard for Organic Processed Foods" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the NTA will revise the standard in relation to matters concerning liquors by:

- (1) removing DL-tartaric acid and DL-potassium hydrogen tartrate from the food additives, listed in the Table 1 of the standard ;
- (2) removing Plant and animal oils, gelatin, casein, fermented products from aspergillus, extract from mushrooms (shiitake fungus), extract from chlorella, chitin, beeswax, silicate mineral, bentonite, and edible plants extract from the medical agents ,listed in the Table 2 of the standard ; and
- (3) adding Capsaicin to the medical agents listed in the Table 2 of the standard.