

Amendment of the Standards and Specifications for Foods and Food Additives

The government of Japan will revise the existing standards for use of zinc sulfate.

Summary

Under Article 10 of the Food Sanitation Law (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 whether the existing standards for zinc sulfate should be revised. The conclusion of the committee is outlined below.

Outline of conclusion

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

Attachment

Revision of use standards

Zinc Sulfate

Current regulations

Zinc sulfate is permitted for use only in breast milk substitutes.

The use level shall not exceed 6.0 mg/L as zinc in milk formulated in a standard concentration, except when the additive is used in dry milk formulated under the approval of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Revised regulations

Its use will be expanded to effervescent alcoholic beverages. The allowable maximum level is 0.0010 g/kg of beverage as zinc.

Definition of sparkling liquors

Effervescent alcoholic beverages are products specified by the Liquor Tax Act.

They include

- beer,
- sparkling liquors,
- other effervescent alcoholic beverages (confined to products containing less than 10 percent alcohol).