

March, 2017

## Outline of draft amendment of the Food Labelling Standards concerning the place of origin labelling of ingredients of processed foods

### I Objectives of the revision

To provide consumers with the information about the place of origin of the heaviest ingredient of processed foods domestically produced and sold, to ensure consumers' voluntary and rational choice.

### II The main amendments

#### 1. Scope of the processed foods and ingredients

Under the current rules, with regard to certain categories of the processed foods domestically produced and sold, Japan imposes obligation to label the place of origin of its agricultural, livestock or fishery ingredient which constitutes 50% or more by weight.

The new labelling rules require all processed foods domestically produced and sold to label the place of origin of the heaviest ingredient in the final products.

The rules are unchanged for the imported processed foods. The imported processed foods are required to label the country of origin, while the ingredients of the imported processed foods are not required to label the place of origin.

#### 2. Labelling Method

Under the current rules, certain categories of processed foods are required to label the places of origins of its agricultural, livestock or fishery ingredient in descending order by weight.

In principle, the new labelling method follows the current labelling method. But the following methods are allowed when the current method

is difficult to apply (e.g. when the package is needed to be changed because of the change of sources of ingredient):

- ① To use “or” between the names of the multiple countries where the ingredients are produced, in descending order by weight, based on past records or other sources
- ② To label as “imported”, if there are 3 or more countries of origin

Regarding semi-processed ingredient, it is required to label the place of origin where it is produced.

The new labelling method is not applied to the processed foods which are required to label the place of origin of the ingredients under the current rules.

### III The object of this revision

The Food Labelling Standards (Cabinet Office Ordinance No.10 of 2015), which is based on the Food Labelling Act (Act No.70, 2013)