

Setting of Specifications and Standards for Buffalo's Milk

Summary

Pursuant to Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Act, and from the viewpoint of public health, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare is authorized to establish standards for the methods of producing, processing, using, cooking, or preserving food or additives to be served for the purpose of marketing; or to establish specifications for the ingredients of food or additives to be served for the purpose of marketing by hearing the opinions of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council ("the PAFSC").

Specifications and standards for milk, milk products and food mostly made from milk and milk products are stipulated in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards. (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk") pursuant to Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Act.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare amends the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk to establish specifications and standards for buffalo's milk based on the deliberation of the expert committee of the Food Sanitation Council that is established under the PAFSC as follows.

Amendments

1. For buffalo's milk, those similar to the existing specifications and standards for milk and milk products are newly established in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk.

By this amendment, "raw buffalo's milk" is newly added to the definition of "milk." The amended definition is as follows: "milk" means raw milk, cow's milk, special milk, raw goat's milk, pasteurized goat's milk, raw sheep's milk, raw buffalo's milk, composition modified milk, low fat milk, skimmed milk, and processed milk.

2. The scope of the amendment is as follows:

- a. Raw buffalo's milk (newly defined)
- b. Processed milk

- c. Milk products: in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, “milk products” means cream, butter, butter oil, cheese, concentrated whey, ice cream products, concentrated milk, concentrated skimmed milk, evaporated milk, evaporated skimmed milk, sweetened condensed milk, sweetened condensed skimmed milk, whole milk powder, skimmed milk powder, cream powder, whey powder, protein concentrated whey powder, buttermilk powder, sweetened milk powder, powdered infant formula, liquid infant formula, fermented milk, fermented milk drinks (limited to products containing not less than 3.0% of non-fat milk solids) and milk drinks.
- d. Foods mainly made from milk or milk products