

Revision of the specifications for mineral waters

The government of Japan will revise the specifications for Hexavalent chromium, Chloroacetic acid, Dichloroacetic acid, and Trichloroacetic acid in mineral waters.

Background

Japan prohibits the sale of foods and food additives that are stipulated in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370, 1959; “the Notification”) pursuant to Article 13 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947; “the Act”) when specifications or standards for the foods or the food additives do not meet the specifications or the standards.

Specifications and standards for mineral waters stipulated in the Notification have been successively reviewed considering consistency with the water quality standards stipulated in Japan’s Water Supply Act and international standards such as the Codex standards. This time, Japan will revise the specifications for the Hexavalent chromium, Chloroacetic acid, Dichloroacetic acid, and Trichloroacetic acid in mineral waters as below based on the assessment reports from the risk assessment body, the Food Safety Commission of Japan under the Cabinet Office.

Outline of revision

- (1) Compositional specifications for mineral waters (non-sterilized or non-filter sterilized)

(mg/l)

Substance name	Maximum level (current)	Maximum level (draft)
Chromium (VI)	0.05	<u>0.02</u>

Note: Underlined part is revised level (draft).

(2) Compositional specifications for mineral waters (sterilized or filter sterilized)

(mg/l)

Substance name	Maximum level (current)	Maximum level (draft)
Chromium (VI)	0.05	<u>0.02</u>
Chloroacetic acid	Not established	<u>0.02</u>
Dichloroacetic acid	Not established	<u>0.03</u>
Trichloroacetic acid	Not established	<u>0.03</u>

Note: Underlined parts are revised levels (draft).