

Partial amendment to the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.

The government of Japan will delete the provisions on the prohibition on use of additives in containers or packaging for milk and milk products.

Background

Pursuant to the provisions in Article 18, Paragraph (1) of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No.233 of 1947; “the Act”), the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare may establish specifications for apparatus, containers, or packaging (“ACP”), or the raw materials thereof; or establish standards for the production methods thereof, through hearing the opinions of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council. The specifications and standards are specified in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. (Public Notice of the Ministry of Health and Welfare No.370 of 1959; “the Public Notice”).

For containers and packaging, or the raw materials thereof (“containers and packaging, etc.”) used for cow’s milk, special milk, pasteurized goat’s milk, composition modified milk, low fat milk, skimmed milk, processed milk, and cream (“cow’s milk, etc.”), the provisions to the following effect are specified in E. Specifications by Application for Apparatus, Containers, or Packaging of Chapter III. Apparatus, Containers, and Packaging of the Public Notice: Additives must not be used, in general, in synthetic resin when it is used in the parts that come into direct contact with cow’s milk, etc.

By partially enforcement of the Act Partially Amending the Food Sanitation Act, Etc. (Act No. 46 of 2018), the Positive List System for food ACP was introduced on June 1, 2020. This system has enabled the regulation of the additives allowed to be used as substances as raw materials of synthetic resin. To avoid double regulation, the Public Notice will be partially amended.

Outline of the amendment

From the Public Notice, the provisions will be deleted to the effect that additives must not be added to synthetic resin used in containers and packaging, etc. for cow’s milk, etc. when the synthetic resin is used in the parts that come into direct contact with cow’s milk, etc. This is because, even without the provisions, safety of cow’s milk, etc. will be ensured as long as the Positive List System is operated appropriately.