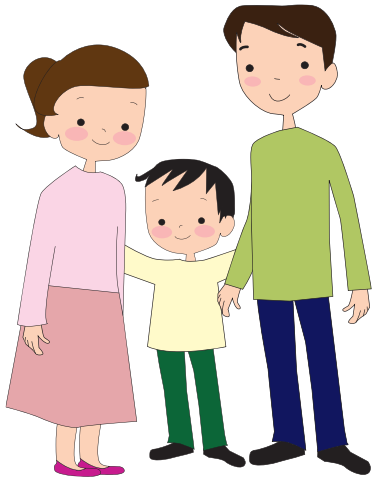
About “Accurate Information”

The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company, Incorporated threatened the safety of food however, efforts made by farmers and other relevant parties have led to a reduction of radioactive materials.

On the websites of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), the results of inspections implemented by local governments on radioactive cesium in food are published at periodic intervals.

For the purpose of providing accurate information, the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) organizes various explanatory meetings and opportunities to exchange opinions in cooperation with relevant ministries agencies and local governments.

CAA hopes that these approaches resolve your concerns, help you understand the situation further, and are useful when you purchase food.



Tap water

“Tap water” is what all people drink everyday and is thus irreplaceable. On the basis of the consequently large intake of tap water and the guidance level for radioactive materials in drinking water indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO), we have set our management value at 10 Bq/kg (total of cesium-134 and -137), which is the recommended level of the WHO.

Today, the waterworks operators are monitoring the radioactive materials in tap water used in homes.

From the results of monitoring inspections implemented so far, radioactive cesium levels exceeding 10 Bq/kg have not been detected from tap water (purified water) since June 2011 and from water sources since May 2011.

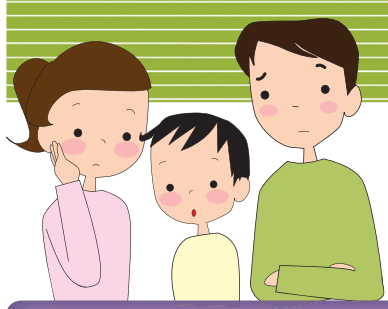
For more information, please visit “Food and Radiation Q&A” on the website of the Consumer Affairs Agency.
http://www.caa.go.jp/jisin/food_s.html

<Contact>

For any questions regarding radioactive materials in food, explanatory meetings and this leaflet, please direct inquiries to the following contact:

Consumer Safety Division (Food Safety Section), Consumer Affairs Agency
Email address: g.anzenshoku@caa.go.jp

Food and Radiation Q&A



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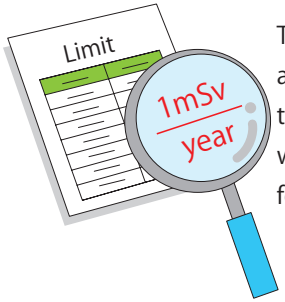
Any questions or concerns?

- ☐ What are the limits for food?
- ☐ What are the limits for radioactive materials other than cesium?
- ☐ Is it safe to continue eating food on the market?
- ☐ What are the inspection results?
- ☐ I am concerned about safety of rice and vegetables.
- ☐ I can’t stop buying bottled water.

What is meant by: "Foods in the range of below the limits are safe"?

The limits placed on foods have been in effect since April 2012 in lieu of the provisional regulation levels set immediately after the accident.

The limits were established to ensure that the total additional radiation dose from foods does not exceed "1 mSv" per year.



The value "1 mSv per year" is in accordance with the guidelines set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which sets international standards for food.

Furthermore, the level of the limits is set sufficiently low compared with the findings of the Assessment of the Effect of Food on Health conducted by the Food Safety Commission of Japan prior to the establishment of the limits. (There can be health effects if the lifelong additional, accumulative radiation dose exceeds approximately 100 mSv.)

Two units: "becquerel" and "sievert"

The units of Bq (becquerel) and Sv (sievert) are commonly used to measure radioactive materials in food.

Bq (becquerel) represents the ability of radioactive materials to emit radiation, while Sv (sievert) represents radiation's effects on the human body.

It is possible to find out how much the human body is affected by food contaminated by radioactive materials through calculations using the conversion coefficients from Bq (becquerel) to Sv (sievert).

The Limits for radioactive materials in food

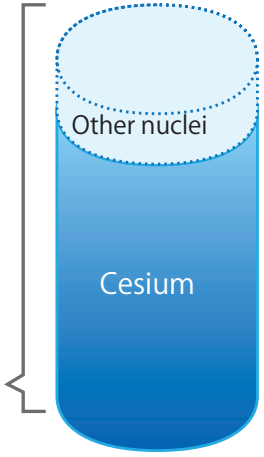
<Limits of radioactive cesium>

Food item	Limit (Bq/kg)
Drinking water	10
Milk	50
General foods	100
Infant foods	50

The limits for radioactive materials in food are standards that consider food intake and the effects of radioactive materials on health, and take into account people of all ages including infants and pregnant women.

For the limits, radioactive cesium is used as a representative material as it has the greatest level of effect among nuclei with long-term effects (with a physical half-life of one year or more) from the multiple radioactive materials discharged by the accident.

Taking account of nuclei other than radioactive cesium (strontium, plutonium and ruthenium), the limits of radioactive cesium were established to ensure that the additional radiation dose from food does not exceed 1 mSv annually.



Total additional radiation dose (1 millisievert annually)

Approaches to comply with the limits

To ensure that only food products complying with the limits are placed on the market, various approaches have been taken in production sites to reduce radioactive cesium.

Further, local governments have conducted inspections on radioactive cesium in food. Food products that are found to exceed the respective limits are disposed of. If an excess level signals regional spread, distribution restriction will be ordered.

These approaches are combined to prevent foods with radiation levels exceeding the respective limits from being distributed on the market.

<Inspection results in 2012>

Food item	Inspection item	No. of items exceeding the limit value	Excess rate
Rice (*1)	1,037 millions	84	0.0008%
Vegetables	18,570	5	0.03%
Fruits	4,478	13	0.3%
Tea	867	13	1.5%
Raw milk	2,421	0	0%
Beef	153,238	6	0.004%
Pork, chicken, eggs and other livestock products	1,722	2	0.12%
Mushrooms and wild plants (*2)	6,588	605	9.2%
Fish products (*3)	19,564	1,093	5.6%

*1 Data for rice produced in 2012

*2 It was discovered that a large number of items exceeding the limit value involved wild mushrooms and plants rather than cultivated ones.

*3 This was an aggregation of data by the Fisheries Agency. The rate has shown a tendency to decline from the 17.2% recorded in 2011, and most of the items exceeding the limit value were found to be fishery products from the sea bottom and wild freshwater fish.