

# For informed food choices

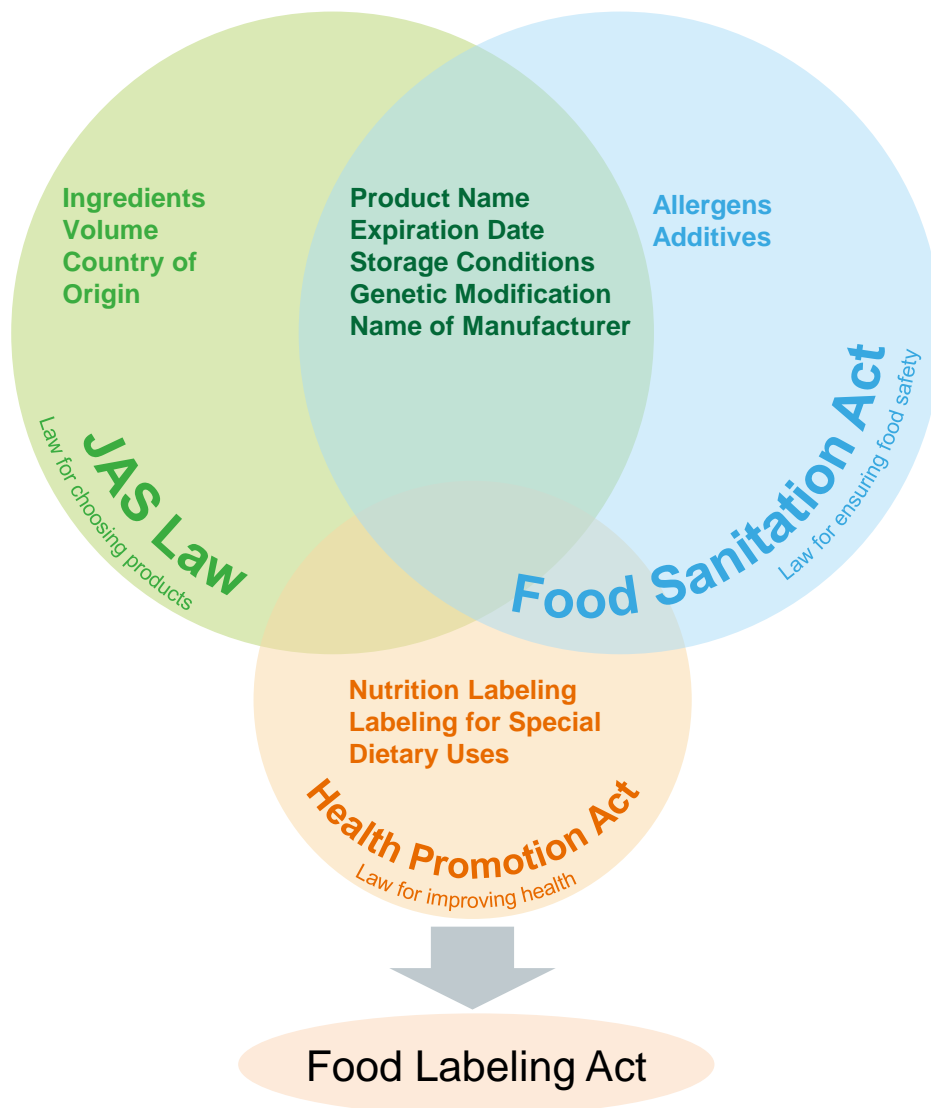
## Food Labeling Act

Food Labeling plays an important role in ensuring consumer safety and creating an opportunity for consumers to make autonomous and reasonable choices, which is regarded as consumers right in the Basic Consumer Act.

The Food Labeling Act came into effect on April 1, 2015. The rules on food labeling of the three acts that used to set forth general rules on food labeling, namely, the Food Sanitation Act, JAS Law, and Health Promotion Act, were integrated into a comprehensive and centralized system for food labeling.

## Integrated Food Labeling System

(Relationships among the JAS Law, Food Sanitation Act, and Health Promotion Act)



Under the new food labeling system, necessary changes including the improvement of the existing food labeling system were made in addition to the integration of the three acts as mentioned above.

Major changes to the system:

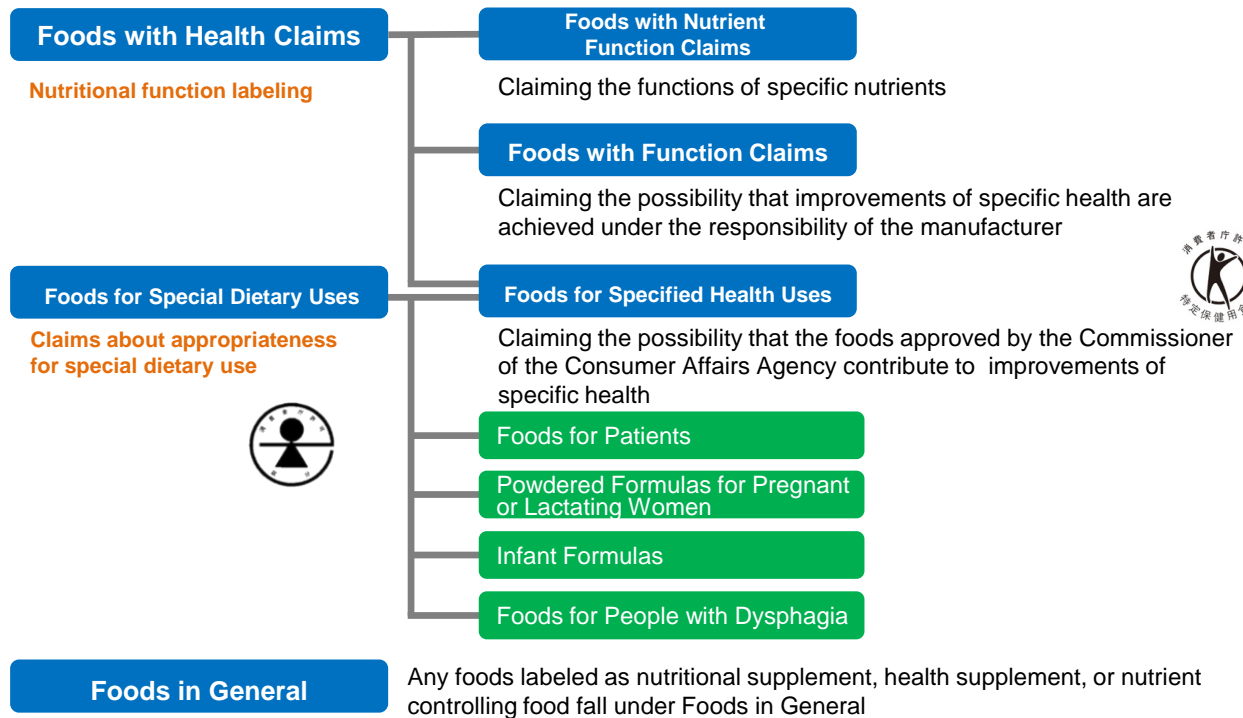
- Obligatory labeling of nutrient declaration
- Improvement of rules for allergen labeling
- Establishment of the "Foods with Function Claims" system

# Labeling systems concerning health and nutrition

## Labeling of Nutrition Facts

Nutrition facts are labeled on packaged foods such as processed foods. Also, some foods have nutrition claims and nutrient reference values in their labels. The nutrition facts labeled on a food product indicate the nutritional characteristics of the food such as caloric content and volume of nutrients.

Further, the following systems are available for claiming the functions of ingredients and special purposes of use.



## Foods with Health Claims

Foods with Health Claims is the generic term for three kinds of labeling systems for the functions of ingredients contained in food products with the purpose of maintaining and improving health. It consists of Foods with Nutrient Function Claims, Foods with Function Claims, and Foods for Specified Health Uses.

### Foods with Nutrient Function Claims

Foods with Nutrient Function Claims can be used to supplement or complement daily nutrients (vitamins/minerals) that tend to be insufficient in everyday diet. Given that a food product contains certain amounts of nutrient whose function meets Food Labeling Standards, it can bear a nutrient function claim as prescribed by the Standards without submitting a notification to the government.

### Foods with Function Claims

Foods with Function Claims are foods allowed to bear a scientific, evidence-based claim that the functional ingredients can be beneficial to improvements of specific health under the responsibility of its manufacturer. Information about the safety of and justification for the efficacy gained from the functional ingredients must be submitted to the Commissioner of the Consumer Affairs Agency before the product is launched.

## Foods for Specified Health Uses

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Foods for Specified Health Uses are foods allowed to bear claims that users can expect improvements of specific health such as “help keep your digestive system healthy.” To launch a product as Foods for Specified Health Uses, it is essential to obtain permission from the Commissioner of the Consumer Affairs Agency after the government evaluates the claimed effects and safety.

## Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Foods for Special Dietary Uses are foods allowed to have claims about special purposes of use such as support for infant growth and the health care or recovery of pregnant/lactating women, patients with dysphagia, and other patients. It is essential to obtain permission from the Commissioner of the Consumer Affairs Agency to market foods with such claims.