

No. 413 of December 27, 2024

To: Heads of bureaus and departments in charge of hygiene and sanitation of all prefectures, cities with health centers, and special wards

Director of Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division,
Consumer Affairs Agency
(Official Seal omitted)

The Survey on the Distribution Status Necessary to Prepare the List of Food Additives to Be Eliminated and on the Origin of 5'-Deaminase

Pursuant to the provision in Article 2-3 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act to Partially Revise the Food Sanitation Act and the Nutrition Improvement Act (Act No.101 of 1995; “the delisting provisions”), when the Prime Minister judges that an additive listed in the List of Existing Food Additives (Public Notice of the Ministry of Health and Welfare No.120 of 1996, “the List”) is no longer served for the purpose of sale judging from the situation on sale, manufacturing, import, processing, use, storage, and display (“sale, etc.”), the Prime Minister may eliminate the name of the additive from the List. The elimination is implemented through the preparation and publication of the “List of Food Additives to Be Eliminated,” and necessary procedures. To date, 132 substances have been delisted.

A preliminary survey by the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) has found that the eight substances listed in Appendix 1 are unlikely to be served for sale, etc. Therefore, the CAA has decided to conduct a full-scale survey on the eight substances.

The CAA asks you to inform the business persons who sell existing food additives, or preparations or foods including them (“existing food additives etc.”) in your jurisdiction, by providing the implementation guidelines (Attachment) or by other means, that if they have records of sales, etc. for the substances listed in Appendix 1, they should notify the CAA of that fact using Appendix 2.

In addition to abovementioned survey, the CAA will also conduct a survey on an enzyme, 5'-deaminase, concerning the strains and species of 5'-deaminase producing bacteria as well as the actual conditions of sale, etc.

The CAA is informing relevant business persons of the survey mainly by posting specific information on the websites of the CAA* and by putting it up on bulletin boards of quarantine stations. The CAA has already requested the following associations to thoroughly disseminate this matter to their association members.

Japan Food Hygiene Association; Japan Food Industry Association; Association for the Safety of Imported Food, Japan; Japan Health and Nutrition Food Association; and Japan Food Additives Association

Furthermore, the CAA asks you to take thorough measures to reach this information to non-association members.

The survey is aimed to obtain information on whether the target substances are distributed as food additives. Please note that no notification is required, if these substances are exclusively used as ingredient for apparatus, containers, and packaging. Also, a notification to the effect that the target substances are not being distributed is not necessary. Even the listed eight substances are not targeted for notification, if they are not used as food additives.

If the name of a food additive is once eliminated from the List pursuant to the delisting provisions, the substance will be prohibited from distribution in Japan as a food additive unless the substance is designated again as a food additive pursuant to the provision in Article 12 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947). Also, if an origin of a food additive is once eliminated from the List, the substance derived from the origin will be prohibited from distribution in Japan as a food additive.

* The page of food additives under Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division, CAA
https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/standards_evaluation/food_additives