

The Food Safety Basic Law

Main features of the Food Safety Basic Law

1. Basic Principles Articles 3-5

To ensure the safety of food:

- (1) Make efforts on the basis of the basic recognition that protecting the health of general public in Japan is the top priority.
- (2) Ensure safety at each stage, from the production to the consumption of food.
- (3) Make efforts on the basis of scientific knowledge and in consideration of international trends and the opinion of general public in Japan.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of Related Parties Articles 6-9

- Responsibilities of the state and local governments
 - To make efforts to ensure the food safety on the basis of an appropriate sharing of roles.
- Responsibilities of food-related business operators
 - To recognize that they have a primary responsibility for ensuring food safety, and to appropriately take necessary measures.
 - To make efforts to provide accurate and appropriate information.
 - To cooperate in policies implemented by the control and local governments.
- Roles of consumers
 - To endeavor to improve their knowledge and understanding, and to express opinions on the policies.

3. Basic Direction Articles 11-21

Adoption of risk analysis approach

Articles 11-13

- Implementation of risk assessment (assessment of the adverse health effect of food on health)
- Formulation of policies based on the results of the risk assessment
- Promotion of risk communication

Articles 14-20

- Response to emergency situations
- Close and mutual cooperation among relevant administrative bodies
- Establishment of experiment and research systems
- Collection of internal and external information
- Ensuring the appropriate operation of a labeling system
- Promotion of education and learning
- Consideration for the effects on the environment

Formulation of the basic matters for implementation of measures Article 21

4. Establishment of the Food Safety Commission (implementation of risk assessments etc.) Articles 22-38