

labeling system, shall be taken in consideration that food labeling plays an important role in ensuring food safety.

(Education and learning regarding ensuring food safety)

Article 19

In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures for improving knowledge and understanding of ensuring food safety among citizens shall be taken by promoting education and learning and improving public relations activities on ensuring food safety.

(Consideration for effects on the environment)

Article 20

In formulating policies to ensure food safety, the effects of policies on the environment shall be considered.

(Determination and publication of Basic Matters concerning implementation of measures)

Article 21

The government shall determine basic matters concerning implementation of measures (hereinafter referred to as "Basic Matters") that are to be taken in accordance with the provisions of Articles 11 to 20.

2. The Prime Minister shall formulate a draft of Basic Matters after hearing the opinions of the Food Safety Commission and The Consumer Commission and ask the Cabinet for its decision.

3. The Prime Minister shall promulgate the Basic Matters without delay once the Cabinet has made its decision in accordance with the provision of the preceding paragraph.

4. The provisions of the preceding two paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis to the changes of the Basic Matters.

Chapter III Food Safety Commission

(Establishment)

Article 22

The Food Safety Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") shall be established in the Cabinet Office.

(Office duties under the jurisdiction of the Commission)

Article 23

The Commission shall take charge of the following office duties:

(1) to offer opinions to the Prime Minister in accordance with the provisions of Article 21, paragraph 2;

(2) to conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health in accordance with the provisions of the following article or at its direction;

(3) to make recommendations to related ministers through the Prime Minister about policies to be implemented for ensuring food safety on the basis of the results of the assessment of the effect of food on health, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the preceding item;

(4) to monitor the implementation conditions of policies that are implemented on the basis of the results of the assessment of the effect of food on health, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of item (2), and to make recommendations to related ministers through the Prime Minister if necessary;

(5) to examine and deliberate on important matters regarding policies to be implemented for ensuring food safety, and to give opinions to the heads of related administrative bodies if necessary;

(6) to conduct scientific research and study necessary to perform office duties cited in items (2) to (5);

(7) to plan and implement the mutual exchange of information and opinions among persons or parties concerned with respect of office duties cited in items (2) to (6); and

2. When the Commission conducts the assessment of the effect of food on health in accordance with the provisions of (2) of the preceding paragraph, it shall notify related ministers of the results of the assessment without delay.

3. When the Commission has given notification in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph or made a recommendation in accordance with the provisions of (3) or (4) of paragraph 1, it shall publish the contents of the notification or the recommendation without delay.

4. Related ministers shall report to the Commission on policies that they have implemented on the basis of a recommendation in accordance with the provisions of (3) or (4) of paragraph 1.

(Hearing of the Commission's opinions)

Article 24

In any of the following cases, related ministers shall hear the Commission's opinions, provided that this shall not apply to cases that the Commission recognizes as falling under Article 11, paragraph 1 (1) or that the related minister recognizes as falling under (3) of the same paragraph:

(1) when intending to prescribe cases that are not injurious to human health as provided in the proviso of Article 6 (2) of the Food Sanitation Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 2 of the said Law), when intending to prohibit sales in accordance with the provisions cited in paragraphs (1) to (3) of Article 7 of the said Law or to dissolve the prohibition in accordance with Article 4 of the said Law partially or entirely, when intending to enact, amend or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 9, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to prescribe cases that are not injurious to human health as provided in Article 10 of the said Law, when intending to establish standards or specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 2 of the said Law) or Article 18, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 3 of the said Law), or when intending to establish standards in accordance with the provisions of Article 50, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(2) when intending to set, change, or abolish official specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 1-3 of the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law (Law No. 82 of 1948), when intending to designate or change the designation of specified agricultural chemicals in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to establish or change the standards (excluding standards for determining whether falling under cases cited in Article 3, paragraph 1 (6) or (7) of the said Law) provided in Article 3, paragraph 2 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 15-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law);

(3) when intending to set, change, or abolish official specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Fertilizer Control Law (Law No. 127 of 1950), when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Cabinet Order provided in Article 4, paragraph 1 (4) of the said Law, when intending to register or register provisionally specified normal fertilizers in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 1 or Article 8, paragraph 3 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law), when intending to register or register provisionally changes of specified normal fertilizers in accordance with the provisions of Article 13-2, paragraph 2 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law), or when intending to register or register provisionally changes of specified normal fertilizers, or to abolish registrations or provisional registrations in accordance with the provisions of Article 13-3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 in the said Law)

(4) when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law (Law No. 166 of 1951), when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ordinance, which prescribes reported communicable diseases referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 62, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(5) when intending to designate feed additives in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feed (Law No. 35 of 1953), when intending to establish, amend, or abolish standards or specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to prohibit manufacture, import, sales, or use in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the said Law;

(6) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 6, Article 9, Article 13, paragraph 1 (3), or Article 14, paragraph 6 (2) or (3) of the Abattoirs Law (Law No. 114 of 1953), or when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 14, paragraph 7 of the said Law;

(7) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 4, paragraph 2 (limited to the part pertaining to the provisions of paragraph 1 (1) to (3) of the said article) of the Waterworks Law (Law No. 177 of 1957);

(8) when intending to give approval for drugs, quasi-drugs, or medical instruments for the purpose of use for animals (hereinafter referred to as "veterinary medicine, etc.") in accordance with the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 1 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to give approval for veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 20, paragraph 1 of the said Law; the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to conduct a re-examination of veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-4, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 19-4, the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to conduct re-assessment of veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-6, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 19-4 of the said Law; the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to give approval for veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 19-2, paragraph 1 of the said Law or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ordinance provided in Article 83-5, paragraph 1 of the said Law or the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 2 (3) of the said Law applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(9) when intending to form a plan for the enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order (limited to those that designate substances contained in agricultural land soil, which are feared to become the source of the production of agricultural crops, and livestock that are feared to be harmful to human health) provided in Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Agricultural Land Soil Pollution Prevention Law (Law No. 139 of 1970) or the Cabinet Order provided in Article 3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (limited to those that prescribe conditions for areas where the agricultural lands are understood to be used for the production of agricultural crops and livestock that are feared to be harmful to human health or where the fear thereof is understood to be conspicuous);

(10) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 11, Article 15, paragraph 4 (2) or (3), paragraph 6 or Article 19 of the Poultry Slaughtering Business Control and Poultry Meat Inspection Law (Law No. 70 of 1990);

(11) when intending to erase or exclude the name of additives in accordance with the provisions of Article 2-2, paragraph 1 of Supplementary Provisions of The Law Concerning Amendments to the Food Sanitation Law and the Nutrition Improvement Law (Law No. 101 of 1995).

(12) when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Law Concerning Special