



### ○ Self-tasking assessment

Besides risk assessments requested by risk managers, FSC also takes initiative to conduct assessments, so-called 'self-tasking risk assessment.' Recent examples of self-tasking assessments include 'food-borne pathogenic microorganisms', 'lead in food, apparatus and containers/packages', and 'beef/beef offal imported to Japan from countries with no BSE report.'

Assessment of '*Campylobacter jejuni* and *Campylobacter coli* in chicken' has been completed as a part of 'food-borne pathogenic microorganisms,' and FSC has been also discussing the feasibility of carrying other three combinations of microorganisms/foods. For the assessment of 'beef/beef offal imported to Japan from countries with no BSE report', questionnaires to collect necessary information for the assessment has been sent to 14 countries with previous records of beef/beef offal exported to Japan (2003-2006) plus Korea. Presently, assessments of 8 countries have been completed (March 2010) and the remaining countries are under way. In order to conduct the assessment of 'lead in food, apparatus and containers/packages', FSC has set up a working group and assessment report has been drafted but still under deliberation.

Future self-tasking assessments include mycotoxins such as 'ochratoxin', 'deoxynivalenol/nivalenol' and 'arsenic in food' for fiscal 2008. In the next year of fiscal 2009, 'trans fatty acids' and 'aluminium' are already chosen for the assessment subjects.

After completion of self-tasking assessments, FSC continues to monitor how its assessments are actually reflected on risk managers' policy setting as ensuring food safety is the major focus of self-tasking assessment.