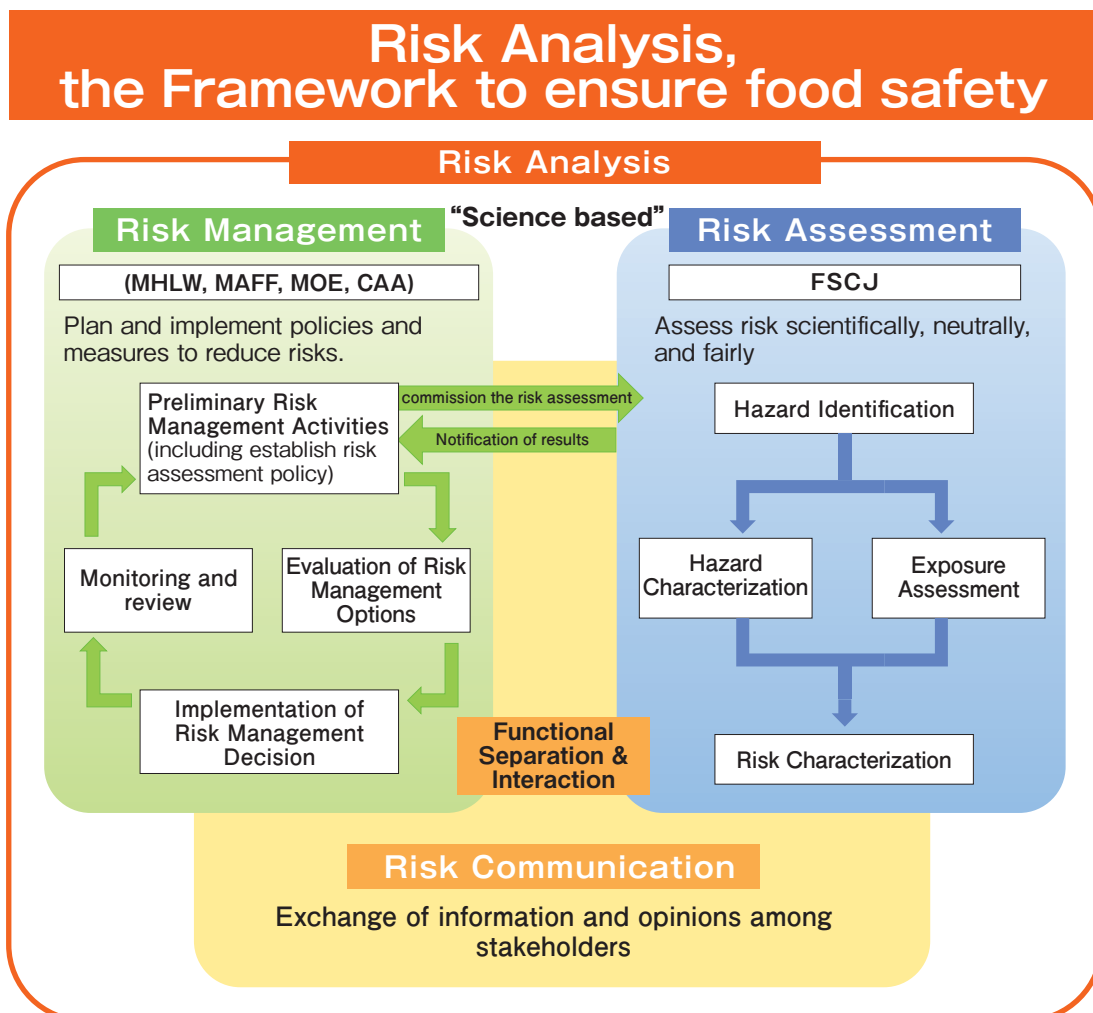


# Food Safety Commission of Japan



# Science-based Approach to Food Safety

The Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ) conducts risk assessment and risk communication to ensure food safety, with the protection of public health as its top priority.



※Stakeholders

Stakeholders are related and interested parties. Stakeholders include the general public (consumers, consumer groups), government (risk assessors and risk managers), media, industry (primary producers, manufacturers, distributors, industry associations, etc.), experts (academia, research and educational institutions, medical institutions, etc.), and other interested parties.

## Risk analysis

Reference: Food Safety Commission, "Glossary of Food Safety Terms".

Risk analysis is an approach to prevent and reduce risks of any adverse health effects from food-related hazards (a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect).

Risk analysis is a process consisting of three components: risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. Each component interacts with one another to bring about better results.

Check here for a link to the glossary.  
 We hope you will find it useful.  
 (Japanese only)



## ◎Our Works

Risk Assessment

Risk Communication

Research and Survey

Collection and dissemination of domestic and international information

International cooperation

## ◎Organization of FSCJ

The FSCJ is comprised of seven commissioners (four full-time commissioners and three part-time commissioners). Weekly Commission Meetings are open to the public.

The process flow of FSCJ's risk assessment is as follows:

The FSCJ receives requests for risk assessments from risk management organizations<sup>(※)</sup>. The risk assessment request is assigned to relevant Expert Committee or Working Group which developing the draft risk assessment. The draft risk assessment is reported to the Commission for discussion. Commission will finalize the risk assessment and notify risk management organizations.

Risk management organizations will provide code of practice or implement regulation by establishing maximum levels, maximum residue levels, and standards for use based on the result of the risk assessments.

※Risk management organizations: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA)

The FSCJ Secretariat works for the Commission and Expert Committees by preparing available scientific evidence and data necessary for the risk assessment, communicates and coordinates with risk management organizations, and promotes risk communication.

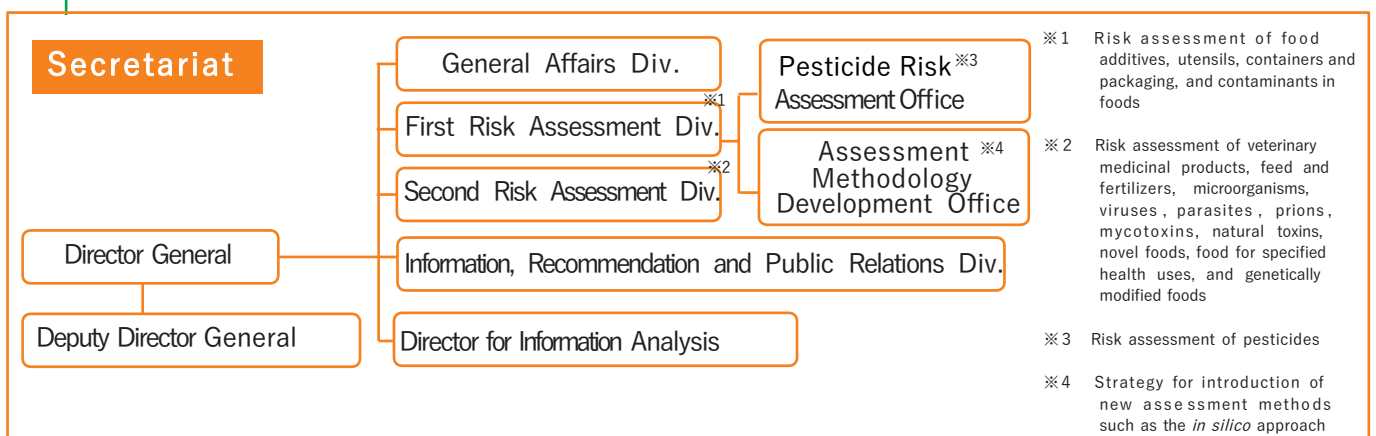
The FSCJ Secretariat is comprised of the director general and staff, including officials, technical advisers, and assistants.

### ◆Food Safety Commission of Japan

Chairperson : Shigeki YAMAMOTO, D.V.M., Ph.D.	…Microbiology
Commissioner : Satoshi ASANO, Ph.D.	…Toxicology
Commissioner : Tomotaka SOBUE, Ph.D.	…Public Health
Commissioner : Masahiro TOHKIN, Ph.D.	…Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Toxicokinetics
Commissioner : Tokiko KOJIMA, Ph.D.	…Food production and distribution
Commissioner : Kuniko SUGIYAMA, Ph.D.	…Consumer awareness and behaviors
Commissioner : Waki MATSUNAGA, M.S.	…Risk Communication

◆Expert Committees

◆Working Groups



# Risk Assessment

The FSCJ assesses risks to human health posed by microorganisms, chemical substances, and others in food, on the basis of the scientific evidence. The risk assessment is conducted in response to requests from risk management organizations. Moreover, the FSCJ also conducts risk assessment on its own initiative, the so called "self-tasking" risk assessment, if necessary.

The FSCJ consists of the Planning Expert Committee, which discusses its annual work program and Expert Committees/Working Groups, which conduct risk assessments on specific hazards. Currently, approximately 200 external experts belong to each of the committees or groups.

## Expert Committees

Planning	Appartus, Containers and Packaging
Food Additives	Contaminants in Foods
Pesticides I	Microorganisms and Viruses
Pesticides II	Prions
Pesticides III	Natural Toxins and Mycotoxins
Pesticides IV	Genetically Modified Foods
Pesticides V	Novel Foods
Veterinary Medicinal Products	Feed and Fertilizers

## Working Groups (WG)

Food Additives for Fortification  
Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria  
Assessment Methodology Developmen  
Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

※As of July, 2024, respectively

## Introduction of new evaluation methods

The FSCJ risk assessment should constantly incorporate new assessment methods as science advances. For example, *in silico* methods have been developed to predict toxicity using computers based on the structure of the substances.

The FSCJ promotes the use of new assessment methods such as (Q)SAR, which predicts the toxicity of chemical substances based on their structures using a vast amount of past test data, and the benchmark dose approach, which analyzes the toxicity of chemical substances using mathematical models.

## ◎The number of Risk Assessment Reports

(April 1, 2024)

risk	number	risk	number
Food Additives	317	Natural toxins / mycotoxins	14
Pesticide	1259	Genetically modified foods	368
Veterinary medicinal products	657	Novel foods	94
Apparatus and containers / packages	23	Feeds, fertilizers, etc.	302
Chemicals and contaminants	71	Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria	67
Microorganisms and viruses	24	Others	8
Prions	75	<b>Total</b>	<b>3279</b>

## Research and Survey

The FSCJ has conducted research and survey program to generate scientific evidence for improving risk assessment.

The FSCJ has developed a road map, "Strategic direction for promoting research and survey to ensure food safety." The roadmap defines overall research and survey directions for the next five years to seek effective and strategic approaches to ongoing research and investigation. Every fiscal year, the research and survey program are selected on a priority basis.

### ◎Research Grant Program for Risk Assessment on Food Safety

The research grant program is conducted to collect scientific evidence necessary for conducting risk assessment and developing assessment guidelines.

### ◎Survey Program for Collecting Data on Food Safety

The survey program is conducted to collect, organize and analyze the data and information necessary for the risk assessment.

# Risk Communication

The FSCJ conducts risk communication to exchange information and opinions on risks and related factors with stakeholders.

- For more information: Communicaiton with stakeholders

URL: [https://www.fsc.go.jp/koukan/dantai\\_jisseki.html](https://www.fsc.go.jp/koukan/dantai_jisseki.html)  
(Japanese only)



## ◎Information exchange on food safety

The FSCJ encourages public awareness and understanding about scientific knowledge on food safety though the following activities: the FSCJ also utilizes tools such as web conferencing systems in response to changes in society.

### <Advanced lecture - risk assessment of food>

- Participants include : Industry and academia
- Objective : To promote better understanding on the risk assessment process and its results

### <Meeting co-hosted with local governments>

- Participants include : School education professionals (including teachers in nutrition education and school nutritionists), Industry

In addition, we dispatch lecturers and accept visiting students from junior high school, high school, and university who are interested in the system to protect food safety upon request.

## ◎Communication with stakeholders

Communication meetings on food-safety are jointly held with relevant risk management organizations to exchange opinions.

The FSCJ exchanges opinions and provide information with consumer groups, media, industry, academia, and local governments, etc.



Opinion exchange meeting with the press

## ◎Food Safety Hotline

The FSCJ receives inquiries from consumers for opinion, comments, etc.

URL : [https://form.cao.go.jp/shokuhin/en\\_opinion-0004.html](https://form.cao.go.jp/shokuhin/en_opinion-0004.html)



## ◎Offering information through various media

The FSCJ provides and share information with stakeholders and the public through various tools/channels such as website, Facebook, official blog, E-mail newsletter, YouTube, and annual magazine of the FSCJ. (See back cover)

# Collection and dissemination of domestic and international information

For ensuring food safety, we need to deal with current and emerging food-related issues. The FSCJ collects information on human health effects, hazards in foods, and risk assessments from overseas, which is organized and shared with risk management organizations including MHLW and MAFF. These information is provided as "Food Safety Related Information" through our website.

The FSCJ also collects information on hazards in Japan and overseas and prepares "fact sheets\*\*" which are posted on our website.

※Fact sheet

A scientific evidence-based summary document compiling the following information in a hazard-specific manner:

- risk assessment published by national and international-risk assessment organizations
- information on the latest research results and risk management measures

## Monitors assigned to report on food safety

The FSCJ asks approximately 450 people selected from among the public nationwide to serve as "Food Safety Monitors" and cooperate in activities such as monitoring of food safety administration and public relations concerning food safety. Opinions and suggestions from the Food Safety Monitors and the results of questionnaire surveys on food safety are posted on the website.

## International Cooperation

The FSCJ is proactively working to strengthen international collaboration, such as by holding periodic meetings with overseas bodies involved in risk assessment to exchange the latest information and opinions.

### ◎Cooperation with overseas agencies

The FSCJ has signed memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with the following overseas agencies to build cooperative relationships.

Under the MOC, the FSCJ exchanges information and opinions on risk assessment methods and individual issues to further strengthen collaboration with risk assessment agencies.

- ◇European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- ◇Federal Institute for Risk Assessment Germany (BfR)
- ◇French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES)
- ◇Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
- ◇Economic and Food Safety Authority of the Portuguese Republic (ASAE)
- ◇Technical University of Denmark (DTU)



International Seminar

### ◎International Seminar

The FSCJ invites experts from overseas and organizes seminars, workshops and symposia on various topics in the area of risk assessment of food. The FSCJ also exchanges information through web conferencing systems and e-mail.

## Website of the FSCJ

<https://www.fsc.go.jp/> (Japanese page)  
<https://www.fsc.go.jp/english/index.html>  
(English page)

The FSCJ posts various information on the website, including reports from Commission Meetings and the FSCJ meetings to exchange opinions. Information on issues of high priority is posted in "Important Notices."



The FSCJ provides food safety topics of high public interest and information on food related materials with the potential to cause adverse health effects.



Facebook



<https://www.fsc.go.jp/sonota/sns/facebook.html>  
(Japanese only)

[https://www.fsc.go.jp/official\\_blog.html](https://www.fsc.go.jp/official_blog.html)  
(Japanese only)



E-mail Newsletter



<https://www.fsc.go.jp/e-mailmagazine/>  
(Japanese only)

<https://www.fsc.go.jp/visual/youtube.html>  
(Japanese only)



## Food Safety-The Official Journal of Food Safety Commission of Japan

Food Safety-The Official Journal is a peer-reviewed, open-access online journal in English published quarterly by the FSCJ.

The aim of the publication of Food Safety is to gather and disseminate scientific and technological information in the field of food safety on human health, and thereby facilitate the development of science and technology for risk assessments of foods.

We look forward to receiving original or reviewing original articles.

<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/foodsafetyfscj/>



## Annual magazine of the FSCJ

Introducing activities of the FSCJ and detailed explanation of risk assessments

[https://www.fsc.go.jp/visual/kikanshi/k\\_index.html](https://www.fsc.go.jp/visual/kikanshi/k_index.html)  
(Japanese only)



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(English page)

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- 10 min. from Exit 10, Akasaka-mitsuke Sta. Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line or Ginza line
- 10 min. from Exit 7 or Exit 10, Tameike-sanno Sta. Tokyo Metro Nanboku Line or Ginza Line

