

## Monthly Update on Activity of the Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ)

### December 2013

Discussions from the 496th to 498th Meetings of the Commission held on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th of December 2013 are summarized as follows:

(1) Risk assessment requests on the following items were made by risk management organizations<sup>1</sup>.

Pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethiprole</li> <li>• Bentiavalicarb-isopropyl</li> <li>• Clethodim</li> </ul>
Pesticides and veterinary medicinal products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cypermethrin</li> </ul>
Veterinary medicinal products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of Ordinance of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries based on article 83 (5) paragraph (1) of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.</li> </ul>
Veterinary medicinal products and feed additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicarbazin</li> </ul>
Microorganisms and viruses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Slaughterhouse Act and the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Poultry Slaughtering Business Control and Poultry Meat Inspection Act</li> </ul>
Genetically modified foods/feeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of the procedure for safety evaluation of foods and additives that are produced by using recombinant DNA technologies. (Notification of the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, No. 233, 2000)</li> </ul>
Food for specified health uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shushicha</li> </ul>

(2) The Risk Assessment Reports on the following items were finalized and notified to the relevant risk management organizations concerned.

#### Pesticides

Item	ADI
Metaldehyde	0.022 mg/kg bw per day

#### Pesticides and veterinary medicinal products

Item	ADI
Dinotefuran	0.22 mg/kg bw per day

<sup>1</sup> E.g. the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA).

## Veterinary medicinal products

Item	Conclusion
Reevaluation of “NEMOVAC” poultry pneumovirus vaccine, live	FSCJ conclusion: Risk to human health from the assessed item through food consumption is negligible as long as it is appropriately used.
Amendment of Ordinance of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries based on article 83 (5) paragraph (1) of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.	FSCJ conclusion: The item does not cause exposure of human to these medicinal products through food consumption, therefore risk to human health from the item through consumption of livestock products was considered to be negligible. Accordingly, FSCJ concluded that the item comes under item (ii) of paragraph (1) of article 11 of the Food Safety Basic Act where the contents and degree of adverse effects on human health are clear.

## Chemicals and contaminants

Items	Conclusion
Amendment of the standard for arsenic in food and beverages.	FSCJ conclusion: Cancers such as lung tumor, urinary bladder tumor and others, and genotoxicity such as chromosomal aberration due to exposure to inorganic arsenic have been observed in human. However, none of the currently available data is conclusive for the direct effect of arsenic on DNA. In addition, data on carcinogenic mechanism of arsenic is insufficient at this particular stage. Hence, FSCJ conclude that threshold of carcinogenicity in arsenic exposure cannot be determined. *FSCJ decided to notify the risk management agencies to further promote surveys on the situation of food contamination with arsenic and researches on measures to decrease safety risk of arsenic.

## Microorganism and viruses

Item	Conclusion
Amendment of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Slaughterhouse Act and the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Poultry Slaughtering Business Control and Poultry Meat Inspection Act	FSCJ conclusion: FSCJ evaluated that the item does not increase degree of adverse effects of livestock products to human health through food consumption, therefore the item is considered to be of no concern for food safety. Accordingly, FSCJ concluded that the item comes under article 11 paragraph (1) item (ii) of the Food Safety Basic Act, that is the case where the contents and degree of adverse effects on human health are clear. *FSCJ decided to notify the risk management agencies to advice and supervise business operators for maintaining better sanitation through appropriate usage of HACCP system.

Genetically modified foods/feeds

Item	Conclusion
<p>Amendment of the procedure for safety evaluation of foods and additives that are produced by using recombinant DNA technologies (Notification of the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, No. 233, 2000)</p>	<p>FSCJ conclusion: The amendment of the procedure newly specified certain hybrid stacks between GM lines of which safety evaluation is considered to have been completed.* Degree of adverse effects of relevant GM plant to human health is evaluated to be not different from that of GM plants used for the hybridization as parental lines of which safety evaluation has been completed. Consequently FSCJ concluded that the item comes under article 11 paragraph (1) item (ii) of the Food Safety Basic Act where the contents and degree of adverse effects on human health are clear.</p>

\* Confirmation of the food safety concerning the relevant stacks has not been required even under the former procedure.