

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

December 2015

Discussions from the 586th to 589th Meetings of the Commission held on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of December 2015 are summarized as follows:

(1) Risk assessment requests on the following items were made by risk management organizations¹.

Food additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peracetic acid products
Prions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the current countermeasures against BSE
Genetically modified foods / feeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carboxypeptidase produced using PEG strain • Sodium L-glutamate produced using GLU-No.8 strain • L-histidine hydrochloride produced using HIS-No.2 strain

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

Additives

Item	Conclusion
Asparaginase produced using <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> NZYM-SP strain	FSCJ conclusion: The assessed item is considered to be of no concern for the food safety as long as used appropriately as a food additive. Therefore, it is unnecessary to specify ADI.
Peracetic acid preparation and its chemical components (peracetic acid, 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, octanoic acid, acetic acid, and hydrogen peroxide)	FSCJ conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peracetic acid; The assessed item is considered to be of no concern for the food safety as long as used appropriately as a food additive. Therefore, it is unnecessary to specify ADI. • 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid; FSCJ specified ADI of 0.013 mg/kg bw per day. • Octanoic acid; The assessed item is considered to be of no concern for the food safety as long as used appropriately as a food additive. Therefore, it is unnecessary to specify ADI. • Acetic acid; The assessed item is considered to be of no concern for the food safety as long as used appropriately as a food additive. Therefore, it is unnecessary to specify ADI.

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrogen peroxide; The assessed item is considered to be of no concern for the food safety as long as used appropriately as a food additive. Therefore, it is unnecessary to specify ADI. In conclusion, peracetic acid preparation is of no concern for the food safety as long as each component is used appropriately as a food additive.
Sodium Chlorite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ADI of 0.029 mg/kg bw per day is specified for chlorite ion. Chlorate ion is of no concern for the food safety as long as sodium chlorite is used appropriately as a food additive.

Pesticides

Item	ADI	ARfD
Imicyafos	0.0005 mg/kg bw per day	0.01 mg/kg bw
Saflufenacil	0.009 mg/kg bw per day	Not required for ordinal people. 0.05 mg/kg bw for pregnant women and women expected to be pregnant.
Cyflumetofen	0.0096 mg/kg bw per day	Not required
Thifensulfuron-Methyl	0.092 mg/kg bw per day	2 mg/kg bw
Fluensulfone	0.014 mg/kg bw per day	0.33 mg/kg bw
Prothioconazole	0.011 mg/kg bw per day	1 mg/kg bw for ordinal people. 0.02 mg/kg bw for pregnant women and women expected to be pregnant.

Pesticides and Veterinary medicinal products

Item	ADI	ARfD
Abamectin	0.0006 mg/kg bw per day	0.005 mg/kg bw

Veterinary medicinal products

Item	Conclusion
Seventeen compounds used as additives for vaccines for veterinary use.	FSCJ conclusion: Risks to human health from 2 of these 17 compounds are negligible as long as appropriately used. Therefore, The item corresponds to the case where the contents and degree of adverse effects on human health are clear, under the Food Safety Basic Act ⁵ .

Prions

Item	Conclusion
Cattle meat and offal imported from Switzerland and Liechtenstein	FSCJ conclusion: Regarding restriction of cattle age and definition of SRMs, variation in potential BSE risks to human health would be very small, if it arises, hence an effect of the variation on human health is negligible.

Genetically modified foods/feeds

Item	Conclusion
Aspartame produced DP-No.2 strain	FSCJ conclusion: According to the “Stance on the Safety Assessment of Amino Acids and Other End Products” ² , the item’s safety was confirmed.

Food for specified health use

Item	Conclusion
FSCJ Report and message on “Food for specified health use”	FSCJ conclusion: FSCJ improved relevant report and message after revision, and decided to disclose it to public with the revised message from the chairperson of the Committee.

² “Stance on Safety Assessments of Amino Acids and Other End Products that are highly purified non-protein additives among additives produced using genetically modified microorganisms (Decision of the Commission dated 28 April 2005)”