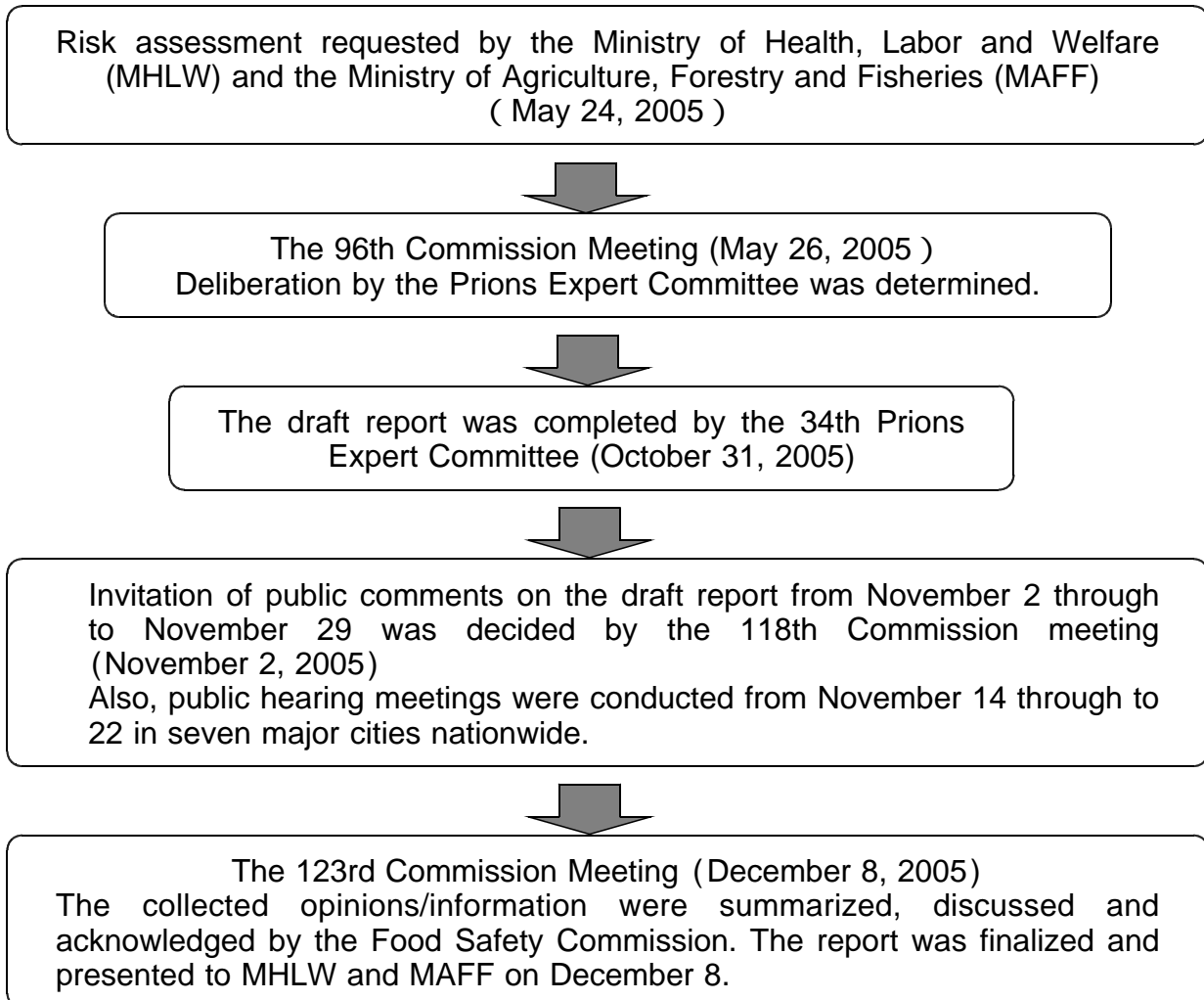


Deliberation of the Food Safety Commission on the beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

. Procedural chart outlining the assessment of risk of BSE arising from beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada



. Procedure of the deliberations at the Prions Expert Committee

- Every meeting of the Prions Expert Committee was open to the public.
- Deliberation was conducted based on the scientific data and information collected by the Expert Committee or provided by the risk management agencies. The Expert Committee asked the risk management agencies to provide further information, if necessary.

- . **Deliberation of the Prions Expert Committee for risk assessment on the beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada, which was proposed by the risk management agencies on May 24, 2005:**

< The 25th Meeting >

1. Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2005

2. Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Clarification on the requested risk assessment by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).
- Questions and answers on the background of the request.

(Note) Description of the request

- 1) Equivalency of the BSE risk by consuming beef and beef offal produced under domestic regulations and export programs for Japan in the U.S.A. and the BSE risk by consuming beef and beef offal produced and distributed in Japan.
- 2) Equivalency of the BSE risk by consuming beef and beef offal produced under domestic regulations and export programs for Japan in Canada and the BSE risk by consuming beef and beef offal produced and distributed in Japan.

< The 26th Meeting >

1. Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2005

2. Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Report on the inconclusive positive BSE case in the U.S.A. *
 - Report on the 73rd OIE General Session outcome.
 - Questions and answers on the background of the request.
 - Proposals and deliberation on the procedures of the risk assessment from the Committee members.
- *) This case was confirmed positive on June 24, 2005.

< The 27th Meeting >

1. Date: Thursday, July 14, 2005

2. Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Hearings and questions and answers on the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and one provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
- In line with the "procedures of the risk assessment", deliberations on the issues including the risk of introduction of the BSE agent through the importation of live cattle and meat-and-bone meal, and on the magnitude of the spread of the BSE agent taking feed regulations, surveillance results and other information into consideration.

< The 28th Meeting >

1 . Date: Monday, August 1, 2005

2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Report on the "non- definitive" test result of BSE in the U.S.A. *
- Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and one provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
- Explanation on the check-list table prepared by an expert committee member and discussion on the individual items in the "procedures of the risk assessment" for the U.S.A., Canada and Japan.

*) This case was confirmed negative on August 3, 2005.

< The 29th Meeting >

1 . Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2005

2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and one provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
- Based on the discussion in the previous meeting, explanation of the check-list table by items revised by an expert committee member and discussion on the level of the BSE infection of live cattle and the magnitude of the BSE prion contamination of beef in the U.S.A., Canada and Japan.

< The 30th Meeting >

1 . Date: Monday, September 12, 2005

2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Presentation by an expert committee member on the latest situation, based on the field investigation, of the beef industry in the U.S.A. and Canada.
- Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and those provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
- Presentation of a framework of a draft report for discussion prepared by committee chairman, and discussion of the first half of the draft report for discussion containing the assessment of the risk of live cattle.

< The 31st Meeting >

1 . Date: Monday, September 26, 2005

2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada

- Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and those provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
- Presentation of the framework of the draft report for discussion prepared by committee chairman and members, and discussion of the latter half of the draft report for discussion containing the assessment of the risk of beef and beef offal.

< The 32nd Meeting >

- 1 . Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2005
- 2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada
 - Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and those provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
 - Presentation of the framework of the second draft report for discussion prepared by committee chairman and members, and discussion of the draft report for discussion containing the assessment of the overall risk of live cattle, beef and beef offal.

< The 33rd Meeting >

- 1 . Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2005
- 2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada
 - Presentation and clarification on animal yellow grease and fancy tallow by a witness (Prof. U. Kimura of Nippon Veterinary and Animal Science University).
 - Presentation and clarification of the additional data submitted by the U.S.A and Canada through the MHLW and MAFF, and those provided by the MHLW and MAFF.
 - Presentation of the framework of the third draft report for discussion prepared by committee chairman, and overall discussion of the draft report.

< The 34th Meeting >

- 1 . Date: Monday, October 31, 2005
- 2 . Agenda: The beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada
 - Presentation of the fourth draft report prepared by the Expert Committee chairman for discussion, and discussion of the draft report mainly focused on conclusions.
 - Submission by the committee chairman of the draft report which is amended based on the discussions to the committee members for confirmation. Upon confirmation by the committee members, the report was finalized and presented to the Commission.

* The final draft report of the Expert Committee was presented at the 118th Food Safety Commission meeting on November 2, 2005, and was subjected to announcement for invitation of public comments for a period of November 2 - 29, 2005.

Meanwhile, public hearing meetings were conducted from November 14 through to 22 in seven major cities nationwide.

The collected opinions/information were submitted to all the Expert Committee members for their deliberations. On the basis of deliberations among the Expert Committee members, the draft report was further amended and submitted to the Commission, and the final report was acknowledged and decided to be presented to MHLW and MAFF by the Food Safety Commission.