

FAX送信票

送信日: 平成29年7月20日(木)

送信先: ミャンマー連邦共和国大使館 ご担当者 様

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送信文書名: 貴国産緑豆の取扱いについて

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံမှ ပဲခူးပြည်နယ် (送付枚数: 6 枚(送信票を除く))

通信欄:

いつもお世話になっております。

標記について別紙のとおり事務連絡を発出いたしましたので連絡いたします。

よろしく申し上げます。

輸入食品安全対策室 木道

厚生労働省 医薬・生活衛生局
食品監視安全課 輸入食品安全対策室

*Ministry of Health,
Labor & Welfare*

〒100-8916 東京都千代田区霞が関1-2-2
TEL 81-3-5253-1111(代表)
FAX 81-3-3503-7964

*Administration
of Food Safety*

食品安全ホームページ

(英語版)

*English
Homepage*

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/bukyoku/iyaku/syoku-anzen/index.html>

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/importedfoods/index.html>

事務連絡
平成29年7月20日

駐日ミャンマー連邦共和国大使館 御中

厚生労働省 医薬・生活衛生局 食品監視安全課

輸入食品安全対策室

စာ.သောစာ.လှိုင် နှင့် အခြား မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ
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貴国産緑豆の取扱いについて

今般、貴国から輸入された食品が我が国の食品衛生法に適合しなかったことから、別添のとおり、検査を強化することとしました。

また、本日以降、同一の不適合事例が確認された場合、更なる検査強化として速やかに食品衛生法第26条第3項に基づく検査命令（100%検査）を実施することとなることから、違反原因の究明と再発防止対策を講じるようお願いいたします。

စာ.သောစာ.လှိုင် နှင့် အခြား မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ မှ ပို့ဆောင်ခြင်း
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薬生食輸発0720第2号
平成29年7月20日

各検査所長 殿

医薬・生活衛生局食品監視安全課
輸入食品安全対策室長
(公印省略)

「平成29年度輸入食品等モニタリング計画」の実施について
(ミャンマー産緑豆のフィプロニル)

標記については、平成29年3月31日付け生食輸発0331第2号(最終改正:平成29年7月20日付け薬生食輸発0720第1号)(以下「モニタリング通知」という。)に基づき実施しているところです。

今般、輸入時に実施した、ミャンマー産緑豆のモニタリング検査において、食品衛生法違反の事例があったことから、食品衛生法違反の可能性を判断する目的で、ミャンマー産緑豆に係るモニタリング検査の頻度を30%に引き上げ、食品衛生法違反の製造者、製造所、輸出者又は包装者に対して輸入の都度の自主検査を実施することとし、モニタリング通知の別表第2(製造者、製造所、輸出者及び包装者の欄を除く。)及び別表第3に下記を追加しますので、御了知の上、関係業者等への周知方、よろしくお願いします。

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検査発化日	対象国・地域	対象品目	検査項目	製造者、製造所、輸出者及び包装者
平成29年7月20日	ミャンマー	緑豆及びその加工品(簡易な加工に限る。)	残留農薬(フィプロニル)	NEW GOLDEN GATE (1991) CO., LTD.

Fipronil

Recent Cases of Violation of the Food Sanitation Law that were Found on the Occasion of Import Notification (Flash)
(July, 2017)

ITEM	EXPORTING COUNTRY	NAME OF MANUFACTURERS	SHIPPER	ARTICLE	CONTENTS OF VIOLATION	QUARANTIN STATION	NAME OF IMPORTERS	CAUSE OF VIOLATION	DISPOSAL OF THE CARGO	REMARKS	Publication day
Mung bean	Myanmar		NEW GOLDEN GATE (1891)	Art.11(2)	Violation of compositional standard (Microbi 0.004 ppm detection)	naogyu	TAYO BUSSAN KALSHALTD.		we detected abandonment or return of the cargo (the whole quantity is kept)	monitoring inspection	7/18

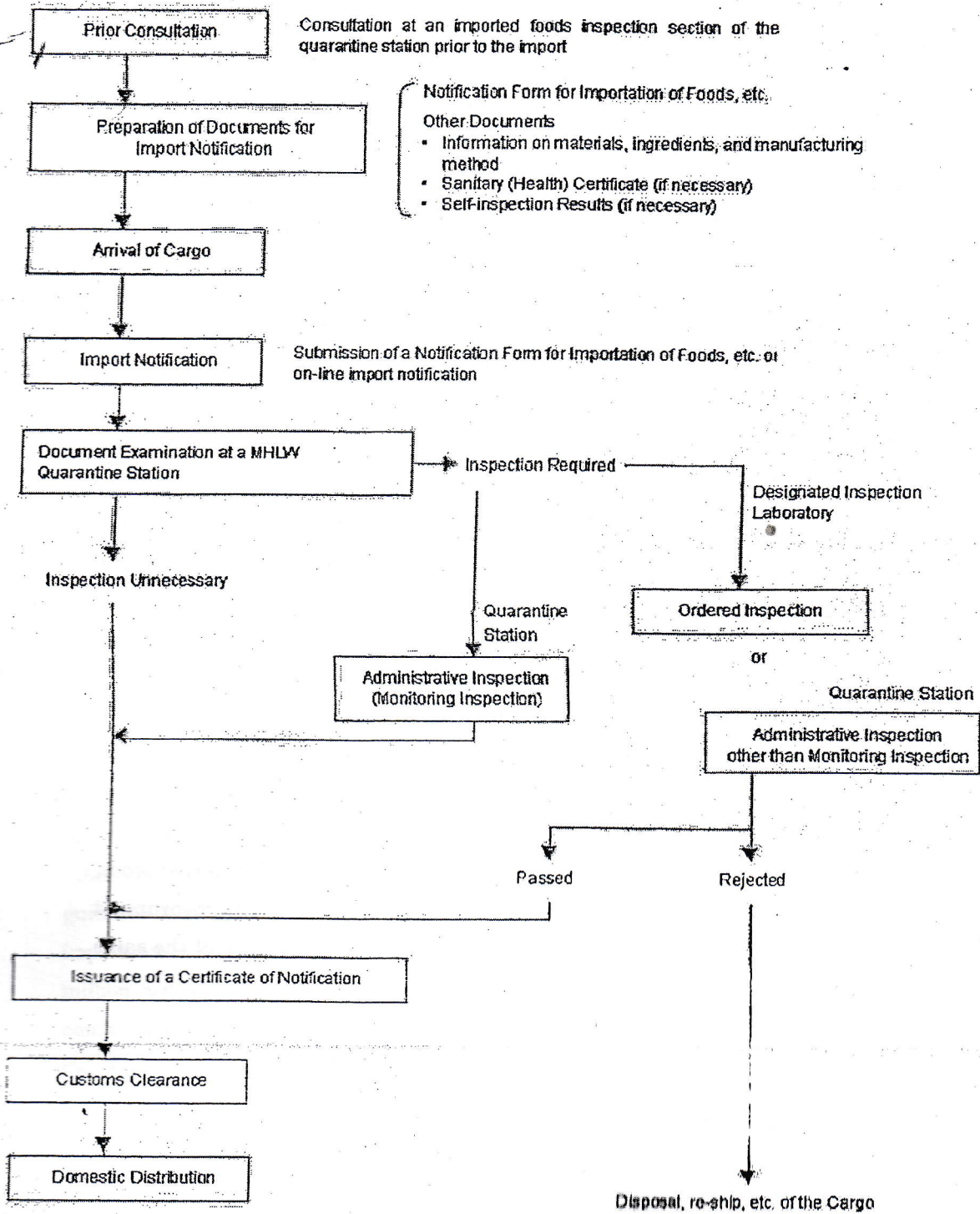
G/G

Recent Cases of Violation of the Food Sanitation Law that were Found on the Occasion of Import Notification (Fish)
(July, 2017)

ITEM	EXPORTING COUNTRY	NAME OF MANUFACTURERS	SHIPPER	ARTICLE	CONTENTS OF VIOLATION	QUARANTIN STATION	NAME OF IMPORTERS	CAUSE OF VIOLATION	DISPOSAL OF THE CARGO	REMARKS	P-dilation day
More than	Myanmar		NEW GOLDEN GATE (B91) CO.,LTD.	Act.11(2)	Violation of compositional standard (Excess 0.004 ppm detection)	นางoya	TATTO BUSSAN KAISHA,LTD.		we if treated abandonment or return of the cargo (the whole quantity is kept)	monitoring inspection	7/18

6/6

Procedures of Import Notification of Foods and Related Products



Notice No.0327 Article 1 of the Environmental Health and Food Safety

March 27, 2017

To: Head of each quarantine station

From: Director of the Environmental Health and Food Safety,
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
(Seal omitted)

Development of Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2017

We appreciate the appropriate implementation of the monitoring plan based on the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2016, as well as the implementation of instruction of imported foods at the time of importation

Based on the implementation guidelines for monitoring and guidance on food sanitation (Notification No. 301 of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2003), the government developed the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan in FY 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2017"), as described in Annex 1, under paragraph 1, Article 23 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947). The Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2017 is a plan concerning the monitoring and guidance of imported foods, additives, equipment, containers and packages and toys by the national government which was published in an official gazette in accordance with paragraph 3 of the same Article.

Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2017

The total number of import notifications filed for foods, additives, equipment, containers and packages and toys (hereinafter collectively referred to as "foods") imported into Japan for the purpose of marketing or any other commercial purposes during FY 2015 are about 2.26 million and their import weight reached 31.9 million tons. Meanwhile, in accordance with the Food Balance Sheet by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the food self-sufficiency ratio (food self-sufficiency ratio based on the total calorific value supplied) of our country stands at about 40%, and this means that, on calorie basis, about 60% of food supplies in Japan depends on supplies from other countries.

In light of these situations surrounding foods imported into Japan, in FY 2016, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as "the MHLW") and quarantine stations have expanded and enhanced their systems for inspection on importation of foods by upgrading the testing and other equipment, and thereby have reinforced the inspection and guidance upon importation including monitoring inspection*¹ and inspection order*². In addition, with an aim to prompt exporting countries to take appropriate safety measures for foods to be imported to Japan, the MHLW and quarantine stations systematically carried out surveys on the regulations and systems concerning food safety being implemented by exporting countries (hereinafter referred to as a "system survey"), and also conducted consultations and surveys on individual issues with exporting countries. In addition to these efforts, the MHLW and quarantine stations carried out on-site inspections about the safety controls being implemented by exporting countries with relation to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (hereinafter referred to as "BSE"), etc.

According to the interim report published in December 2016 about the results of the monitoring and guidance based on the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY 2016, the number of import notifications filed during the period from April to September in 2016 is approximately 1.16 million and the import weight reached some 11.87 million tons, and the number of inspections conducted during the said period amounted to 98,000, out of which 358 cases were found as violating the Food Sanitation Act (the Act No. 233 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as "the Act") (All of these figures are preliminary figures).

In FY2017, while seeking to further promote the above measures, the MHLW will upgrade the plan for monitoring inspections taking into consideration the results of the monitoring inspections conducted in FY2016 and at the same time, will review the inspection items and others taking into consideration the results of inspections and guidance conducted in previous years as well as other relevant factors. More specifically, the MHLW will steadily implement monitoring inspections on pathogenic microorganisms based on pathogen alert information from other countries as well as inspections on residual agricultural chemicals and others in accordance with the so-called Positive

List System*³, and will review inspections items and others taking into consideration the results of system survey and violation data obtained from inspections conducted in previous years. In particular, considering the level of violations concerning the specifications and standards for frozen processed food products, the MHLW will continue to place particular emphasis on monitoring inspections on specifications and standards for processed food products. Based on such results, the MHLW will direct importers to introduce, at the stage of the production process in exporting countries, voluntary safety controls by using the checklist in accordance with the "Guidelines on Hygiene Control of Import Processed Foods" (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines on Processed Foods") attached to the "Notification concerning the Guidelines on Voluntary Hygiene Control of Import Processed Foods", FS Notification No. 0605001, dated June 5, 2008, issued by the Director General of the Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, MHLW. Meanwhile, as measures targeted to exporting countries, the MHLW will request the governments of exporting countries to promote safety measures during the stages of production, manufacturing and processing (hereinafter referred to as "production process") and, will conduct on-site inspections in exporting countries as necessary. And at the same time, the MHLW will hold briefing sessions for promoting understanding of our food sanitation regulations among the governments of exporting countries as well as the producers, manufacturers and processors (hereinafter referred to as "producers, etc.") of exporting countries.

As for efforts to ensure beef exports to Japan are free of BSE, through on-site inspections and inspections on importation, the MHLW will continue to have an eye on the level of compliance to the food safety programs for beef exports to Japan being implemented by the governments of exporting countries.

Further, in light of economic partnership agreements including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the MHLW will reinforce its information gathering activities concerning food sanitation in other countries and will reinforce its monitoring system in response to import trends.

In addition to these efforts, the MHLW will promote sanitary control based on the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) among the governments and producers of exporting countries, for example, through systematic implementation of surveys on the systems of exporting countries including surveys on the level of introduction of the HACCP system.

*1 Monitoring Inspection means inspections systematically implemented every fiscal year for the purposes of survey a wide variety of imported foods items in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 28 of the Act and of conducting necessary measures such as strengthened inspections on importation in the case of any violation of the Act.

*2 Inspection Order means that food products are highly possible for violation of the Act are inspected at each time of import in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 2 or 3, Article 26 of

the Act.

*3 Positive List System means the system to prohibit, in principle, any foods containing agricultural chemicals exceeding a certain level that is determined to pose no adverse health effects.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to promote the intensive, effective and efficient monitoring and guidance over imported foods, and thereby to further ensure the safety of imported foods.

2. Effective period of the Plan

The Plan shall be effective from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

3. Basic procedures for the implementation of monitoring and guidance on imported foods

It is stipulated in Article 4 of the Food Safety Basic Act (the Act No. 48 of 2003) that the food safety shall be ensured by taking necessary measures appropriately at each stage of the food supply processes both in Japan and in other countries. Based on this viewpoint, in order to secure the safety of imported foods, the following measures are to be taken from the stage of the production processes in exporting countries up to the stage of their distribution after importation into the domestic market.

- (1) In order to promote safety measures during the production processes in exporting countries, the MHLW will provide information on our food-safety regulations to embassies located in Tokyo, importers, and the relevant government staffs and producers of exporting countries and will publish such information on the website of the MHLW (hereinafter simply referred to as "the website"). In addition to these efforts, the MHLW will hold bilateral discussions with exporting countries, conduct on-site inspections in exporting countries, and provide technical support to those countries.
- (2) If any violation of the Act is detected, the MHLW will introduce necessary measures such as strengthening of inspections on importation, and at the same time, will publish the violation case in accordance with Article 63 of the Act.
- (3) The MHLW will issue an order for comprehensive import ban on foods produced in a specific country or area or by a specific producer in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 8 or Paragraph 1, Article 17 of the Act if the MHLW considers such measures are inevitable to prevent possible harm to the food sanitation in our country.

- (4) If an importer has repeatedly violated the Act, the MHLW will provide necessary instructions to the importer in order to have the importer rectify the cause of the violation, and should the occasion demand, the MHLW will issue an order to prohibit or suspend the business of the importer in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 2, Article 55 of the Act (hereinafter referred to as "the prohibition or suspension of the business of an importer").
- (5) Quarantine stations will carry out a check, based on import notification documents filed under Article 27 of the Act, as to compliance with the Act including compliance with specifications and standards relevant to foods (hereinafter referred to as "the standards") in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 11 and Paragraph 1, Article 18 of the Act.
- (6) Quarantine stations will carry out monitoring inspections in a systematic manner to ensure the extensive monitoring of various imported foods for the purpose of food safety.
- (7) In order to prevent possible harm to the public health in terms of food sanitation, quarantine stations will order inspections of imported foods with a high possibility of violation of the Act in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 2 or 3, Article 26 of the Act.
- (8) Quarantine stations will hold seminars for and provide pre-import guidance to importers in order to encourage them to promote, as one of their duties as food business operator, voluntary safety controls.
- (9) When a violation of the Act has been identified, quarantine stations will take necessary measures such as ordering the importer to discard, reship or use for any other purpose than human consumption (hereinafter referred to as "discard, etc.") and will direct the importer to provide a report on measures taken by the importer to prevent the recurrence.
- (10) After imported foods are released into the domestic market, local governments such as the governments of prefectures as well as cities and special wards with public health centers (hereinafter referred to as "local governments") will be placed in charge of monitoring and guidance on the imported foods. Upon detection of any violation of the Act, the MHLW, quarantine stations and local governments will cooperate with each other in taking measures to ensure the accurate and swift recall or any other disposal of the violating foods by the importer.

4. Matters relating to cases requiring intensive monitoring and guidance in light of conditions in

producing countries or areas and other factors:

- (1) Checks based on import notifications and other documents submitted in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of the Act

With respect to a food for which an import notification is filed in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of the Act, the quarantine station will confirm; (i) that the food does not fall under any one of those mentioned in each item of Article 6, Paragraph 2 of Article 9, or Article 16 of the Act; (ii) that the food is not subjected to an import ban in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 8 or Paragraph 1, Article 17 of the Act; (iii) that additives contained in the food fall under those as set forth in the provisions of Article 10 of the Act; and (iv) that the food is in compliance with the standards, by checking the import notification document filed by the importer of the food and, as necessary, by checking any certificate document issued by the government of the exporting country and/or by asking reports from the importer.

- (2) Monitoring inspection in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 28 of the Act
The purposes of monitoring inspections to be conducted by quarantine stations are to maintain the extensive monitoring of various imported foods for the purpose of food safety as well as to introduce appropriate measures such as the strengthening of inspection on importation upon detection of any violation.

- 1) Development of a Monitoring Plan

In order to ensure that monitoring inspections will be carried out in an intensive, effective and efficient manner, in principle, the MHLW will determine for each food group the number of inspections to be conducted for each inspection item stipulated for the monitoring inspection (hereinafter referred to as "the monitoring plan") so that the a violation will be detected with a certain level of reliability from statistical viewpoint, after taking into account the violation rate, the number of import notifications filed, the import weight and potential impacts on the public health that may be caused by a violation.

In addition, in order to ensure the steady implementation of inspections of residual agricultural chemicals based on the Positive List System, the MHLW will take into account the regulations concerning agricultural chemicals, the status of their use as well as cases of detection of agricultural chemicals in other countries.

Further, in light of cases of non-conformity to specifications and standards for frozen processed foods and other processed foods, the MHLW will continue to place particular emphasis on monitoring inspections of processed foods to detect non-compliance with the standards, and will also intensively carry out inspections concerning pathogenic microbes such as enterohemorrhagic E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria monocytogenes in view of the

emergences of those pathogenic microbes in other countries.

In addition, as for inspections concerning growth hormone about which only small number of inspections have been conducted since no violation has been detected so far, the MHLW will reinforce the inspection system and will ensure appropriate number of inspections will be conducted.

The monitoring plan for FY 2017 is as shown in Schedule 1.

However, the plan may be reviewed taking into consideration import trends, results of ~~inspections and system surveys, and information about food-related health damages and~~ recalls of unsanitary foods occurring in exporting countries.

2) Planned implementation of monitoring inspections

Each quarantine station will prepare its own annual plan for carrying out such number of inspections as the MHLW will assign to each of them in accordance with the number of inspections determined in the monitoring plan in order to ensure the systematic implementation of inspections.

Meanwhile, as for foods subject to inspection order concerning residual agricultural chemicals, monitoring inspections will be carried out in order to verify the reliability of the control of residual agricultural chemicals, etc., being implemented in export countries, since there are possibilities that the control of residual agricultural chemicals being conducted in exporting countries may be insufficient and that any change in agricultural chemicals used in exporting countries may occur and there is also a possibility that agricultural chemicals other than those covered by the inspection order may be contained in the foods in excess of standard values.

The MHLW will check the implementation of inspections based on the monitoring plan and provide instructions to quarantine stations as necessary. Should it be found difficult to carry out station by station or food group by food group inspections as planned due to any change in import trends or any other circumstances, the monitoring plan will be reviewed to ensure that inspections will be carried out in accordance with the actual import situation.

In the case of an emergency, the MHLW will entrust affairs relevant to inspections to registered conformity assessment bodies in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4, Article 28 of the Act.

3) Strengthening of monitoring inspections

When the MHLW receives information on the recall of a food or the emergence of a food-related health damage in exporting countries and other countries, or when any food is found to violate the Act during a monitoring inspection or otherwise, or when a violation of the Act is identified through the monitoring and guidance by a local government, the MHLW will instruct quarantine stations to reinforce their inspections of the relevant import

food as necessary.

As for the reinforcement of inspections of residual agricultural chemicals, in order to grasp the level of the use of the control over agricultural chemicals, etc. by the exporting country, the MHLW will carry out monitoring inspections on a higher proportion of imported foods concerned and for more inspection items so that violations may be detected with a certain level of reliability from statistical viewpoint.

In addition, in order to prevent any food violating the Act from human consumption, the MHLW will improve its inspection system so that inspection results will be obtained in a shorter period of time.

4) Cancellation of strengthening of monitoring inspections

When the MHLW determines that there is no longer a possibility that foods violating the Act may be exported to our country, the normal monitoring system will be reinstated by canceling the strengthening of monitoring inspections in accordance with any of the following procedures, i. or ii.:

- i. The exporting country has identified the cause of the violation, and based on the findings preventive measures have been introduced such as the formulation of a new regulation, the improvement of the control system of agricultural chemicals and the strengthening of the inspection system. Then upon confirmation of the effectiveness of such measures, the strengthening of monitoring inspections may be cancelled; or
- ii. When no violation of similar case is found after one year from the date on which the monitoring inspections were strengthened or after more than 60 cases were inspected, the strengthening of monitoring inspections may be cancelled.

(3) Administrative inspections other than the monitoring inspection in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 28 of the Act

In addition to inspections based on the monitoring plan, quarantine stations will conduct inspections on imported foods based on the import-notification documents when they are imported into Japan for the first time (hereinafter referred to as "the initial import"), when an accident has occurred during the transportation, or on any other occasions requiring inspections.

(4) Inspection order in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 2 or 3, Article 26 of the Act

1) Issuance of an inspection order

When the MHLW deems it necessary in order to prevent any harm to the food sanitation of the country that may arise out of an imported food with a high possibility of violation of the Act, the MHLW will order importers to have the imported food inspected in accordance

with any one of the following procedures, i. or ii.

Meanwhile, when the food is added to the list of foods subject to inspection order, the MHLW will provide easy-to-understand information about the potential health hazards that may be caused by the food.

i. When a harm to health has been caused or is possibility to be caused by the imported food in the exporting country and/or our country, or when a violation of the Act has been detected as a result of the monitoring inspection of aflatoxin, pathogenic microorganisms, etc., the imported food manufactured by the same manufacturer, processed by the same processor, or imported from the same exporting country will be immediately subjected to an inspection order.

ii. When more than one violation has been detected with regard to residual agricultural chemicals as a result of the monitoring inspection of the imported food manufactured by the same manufacturer, processed by the same processor or exported from the same country, all or part of the imported food in question will be subjected to an inspection order, after taking into account the regulations and the safety controls being implemented in the exporting country, the historical compliance record of the imported food and other factors.

2) Cancellation of an inspection order

When the MHLW determines that there is no longer a possibility that the food violating the Act will be exported into our country, the normal monitoring system will be reinstated by canceling the inspection order in accordance with any one of the following procedures i. or ii.:

i. The exporting country has identified the cause of the violation, and based on the findings preventive measures have been introduced such as the formulation of a new regulation, the improvement of the control system of agricultural chemicals and the strengthening of the inspection system. Then upon confirmation of the effectiveness of such measures through bilateral discussions, on-site inspections, or inspections on importation of the food, the inspection order may be cancelled; or

ii. As for foods subject to inspection order with respect to residual agricultural chemicals, etc., if no new violation is detected during two years from the date on which the most recent violation was found after the date of the notification of an inspection order (or from the date of notification of an inspection order if no violation has occurred since the date of such notification) or if there is no new violation during one year from the said date and at the same time, more than 300 cases have been inspected based on the inspection order, the inspection order may be cancelled.

Thereafter, monitoring inspections will be carried out on a higher proportion of the imported food and for more inspection items so that violations will be detected with a certain level of

reliability from statistical viewpoint with respect to inspection items applicable to the imported food and upon detection of any violation, the food will be immediately subjected to inspection order.

(5) Comprehensive import ban in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 8 or Paragraph 1, Article 17 of the Act

As for an imported food produced in a specific country or area or by a specific business entity, if the violation rate stands above approximately 5% of the overall number of the food inspected and if it is highly likely that the importation of the violating food will continue taking into consideration the level of the food sanitation control in the exporting country, the MHLW will issue a ban on the importation of such food after consulting the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council, to the extent that such a ban is deemed inevitable in order to prevent potential food sanitation problems taking into consideration the extent of damage to human health that may be caused by the food.

(6) Emergency measures in response to alert information from other countries

In order to ensure the safety of imported foods, the MHLW will gather information on food-safety problems occurring in other countries through relevant ministries and agencies, the National Institute of Health Sciences, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases and the governments of exporting countries and through the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) run by the World Health Organization (WHO) and will publish major cases on the website. And if it is found through the search that the violating food have already been imported into our country, the MHLW will instruct quarantine stations or local governments to investigate into the level of the distribution and the stock status of the food in Japan and also instruct them to direct the importers to carry out inspections, the recall of the food and/or any other appropriate measures. The MHLW will also instruct quarantine stations to reinforce their inspections over the food and publish the progress of countermeasures being implemented.

5. Promotion of safety measures in exporting countries

The MHLW will promote safety measures in exporting countries through the following efforts so that any violation of the Act may be prevented at the stage of the production processes in exporting countries.

(1) Dissemination of information about the food-safety regulations of our country and other relevant information

The MHLW will provide on the website the English translation of the food safety regulations of

our country, the lists of foods subject to inspection order or to enhanced monitoring inspection, this Plan as well as the results of the monitoring and guidance conducted under the Plan with an aim to promote information dissemination.

In addition, the MHLW will strive to communicate such information widely among the government staff and producers of exporting countries by holding briefing sessions for the relevant staff of embassies located in Tokyo at the time of the revision of relevant standards, through seminars on food safety regulations organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as by holding explanatory meetings in exporting countries.

(2) Bilateral discussions and on-site inspections

Not only with respect to import foods subject to inspection order but also with respect to import foods with a high possibility of violation of the Act, the MHLW will ask, through bilateral consultations and other opportunities, the governments of the exporting countries to investigate into the causes of the violations and to take corrective actions based on the results, and thereby will strive to promote the implementation of safety controls during the stage of the production processes, the enhancement of monitoring systems and the introduction of pre-export inspections in the exporting countries.

Meanwhile, in order to encourage exporting countries to promote the safety measures for foods exported to Japan, the MHLW will gather information and conduct on-site inspections in a systematic manner by placing particular emphasis on countries concerning which a large number of violations have been detected, in addition to countries exporting large amount of foods to our country as well as the member countries of the economic partnership agreements, considering that the majority of violations reported so far consist of violations of each items of Article 6 of the Act that relates to toxic or hazardous substances such as mycotoxins and violations of Paragraph 2 or 3, Article 11 of the Act that relates to the standards concerning residual agricultural chemicals, veterinary drugs, microorganisms and additives according to the interim report about the results of the inspections and guidance under the Imported Foods Monitoring and Guidance Plan for FY2016.

Further, in order to ensure the safety of imported beef, if it is necessary to verify the safety measures being implemented at the production process in the exporting countries, the MHLW will dispatch experts to the exporting countries to carry out on-site investigations of the safety measures of the exporting countries.

Furthermore, based on the "Memorandum on Japan-China Food Safety Promotion Initiative" signed by the ministers of the both countries on May 2010, the MHLW will hold ministerial-level meetings, will formulate an action plan for promoting exchange and cooperation in the field of the safety of foods imported and exported by Japan and China, and will carry out

working-level consultations and on-site inspections.

(3) Technical cooperation, etc.

The MHLW and quarantine stations will promote technical cooperation that will contribute to the enhancement of the monitoring systems of exporting countries through information dissemination about the food safety regulations of our country and through supports for the improvement of testing techniques of those countries about residual agricultural chemicals, mycotoxins and other substances.

(4) Promotion of sanitary control based on the HACCP

The MHLW will examine the level of the introduction of a hygiene control based on the HACCP by the governments and producers, etc. of exporting countries and at the same time, encourage importers to introduce such hygiene controls, thereby promoting safety measures in exporting countries. As for procedures to be introduced concerning food imports from facilities adopting hygiene controls based on the HACCP, the MHLW will consider them by taking into account a system based on HACCP expected to be introduced in Japan and in light of the investigation results of the hygiene controls in exporting countries.

6. Guidance about voluntary safety controls by importers

Paragraph 1, Article 8 of the Food Safety Basic Act stipulates that food business operators, including importers, shall be responsible for taking necessary measures to ensure food safety at each stage of the food supply processes based on the recognition that they bear the primary responsibility for ensuring food safety. Also, Paragraph 1, Article 3 of the Act stipulates that food business operators, including importers, are required to take necessary measures under their own responsibilities such as the acquisition of necessary knowledge and technology, ensuring the safety of raw materials and the implementation of voluntary inspections to ensure the safety of imported foods.

In light of these requirements, quarantine stations will promote voluntary safety controls among importers through the following guidance and measures with an aim to prevent violations of the Act before they occur.

(1) Basic guidance for importers

Quarantine stations will strive to make sure that importers have a thorough understanding of the regulations on food safety as well as their responsibilities as importers such as compliance with statutory import procedures, inspection systems and the standards as well as submission of sanitary certificates required to be attached to imported foods.

Meanwhile, from the viewpoint of the promotion of voluntary safety controls by importers,