

Designation of Substances Used as Ingredients of Agricultural Chemicals and Other Chemical Substances That Are Stipulated to be “Not Detected” in Food

In Japan, the Food Sanitation Act authorizes the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as “agricultural chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions in the act is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards.

The Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSC) has recently conducted risk assessment for Ipronidazole, one of 5-nitroimidazoles, and concluded that an ADI should not be established because the substance is likely to be genotoxic and carcinogenetic.

Based on the conclusion of the FSC, the MHLW has decided to designate Ipronidazole as a substance used as an ingredient of agricultural chemicals and other chemical substances that is stipulated to be "Not detected" in foods, as is the case with other 5-nitroimidazoles (Dimetridazole, Metronidazole, Ronidazole). Ipronidazole is not permitted to use as agricultural chemicals in Japan.

This action is consistent with the risk management measures recommended by the Codex Alimentarius. The Codex recommends that competent authorities should prevent residues of Ipronidazole in food (CAC/MRL 2-2015).