

## Notification

### **Withdrawal of 10 food additives that are no longer distributed in Japan from the List of Existing Food Additives (revision of the List of Existing Food Additives prescribed in the Food Sanitation Act)**

#### Summary

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as “the MHLW”) intends to withdraw 10 food additives from the List of the Existing Food Additives.<sup>1</sup>

Currently these 10 food additives have been found to be no longer distributed in Japan and are supposed to be withdrawn from the List and consequently will be prohibited for use on and after February 27, 2020, at the latest. These 10 food additives are found in MHLW Notification No.45 that was issued on February 28, 2019, for public comments.

#### Background

According to Article 2-3 of the Supplementary Provisions of Act No.101 of 1995 (the Act to Partially Revise the Food Sanitation Act and Nutrition Improvement Act<sup>2</sup>), the MHLW is responsible for its risk management decision to withdraw food additives from the List of the Existing Food Additives in the MHLW Notification No.120,1996, when it is determined that food additives concerned, or preparations or foods containing them are no longer marketed. Such decision should be made by taking into account thoroughly the actual situation of the sale, manufacturing, import, processing, use, storage, and display of the substances.

In the decision for the 10 food additives, the MHLW took into consideration carefully outcome of the survey carried out from 2017 through 2018 addressing substances whose distribution was unknown.

The survey was aimed at examining the situation on sale, manufacturing, import, processing, use, storage, and display of the said substances in the Japanese market. Through a thorough analysis of the survey result, the MHLW concluded that they were

---

<sup>1</sup> “Existing food additives” refer to non-synthetic food additives that were marketed or used on the date of the amendment of the Food Sanitation Act (May 24, 1995) and that appear in the List of Existing Food Additives.

<sup>2</sup> The Nutrition Improvement Act is the present Health Promotion Act.

no longer distributed in the domestic market. Individual names of 10 food additives are identified in the attachment.

Criteria of judgement for withdrawal of the 10 substances are as follows: the substances whose distribution had not been confirmed in Japan were targeted for the withdrawal.<sup>3</sup>

### **Action to be taken**

Following the issuance of the Notification No.45 on February 2019, The MHLW should take its decision making process. This process includes 6-month public comment period.

Timeline of this process

1. February 28, 2019: Publish the Notification No.45 listing food additives to be withdrawn



- ◆ Comment period (6-month and includes the WTO comment period)  
Those who claim to modify the list should submit an application to the MHLW with documents which prove actual distribution of the additives concerned, or preparations or food containing them in the Japanese market.

2. August 27, 2019: Due date for comment submission



3. In another six month period, the List of the Existing Food Additives will be revised to formally withdraw these additives. The revised list will come into force on February 27, 2020, at the latest. Thereafter, the use of them as food additives is prohibited.

---

<sup>3</sup> Natural flavoring agents, which are obtained from animals and plants or mixtures of thereof for flavoring to food, are outside the scope of this activity.

**List of Existing Food Additives To Be Withdrawn**  
**(As of February 2019)**

No.	Substance Name	No. (in the List of Existing Food Additives)
1	Itaconic acid (イタコン酸)	29
2	Fish scale foil (魚鱗箔) A substance that is obtained by extraction from the epithelium of fish	87
3	Kooroo colour [Matsudai colour] (クーロー色素) A substance that is obtained by extraction from the roots of <i>somemono-imo</i> ( <i>Dioscorea matsudai</i> HAYATA)	114
4	Spice extracts (香辛料抽出物) Substances that are obtained by extraction or steam-distillation from chervil	122
5	Bone carbon black (骨炭色素) A substance that is obtained by carbonizing bones and consists mainly of carbon	135
6	Sesami straw ash extarct (ゴマ柄灰抽出物) A substance that is obtained by extraction from the ashes of sesami stems or leaves	137
7	Shea nut colour (シアナット色素) A substance that is obtained by extraction from the fruits or seed coats of shea	149
8	Ferritin (フェリチン)	263
9	Hego-ginkgo leaf extract (へゴ・イチョウ抽出物) A substance that is obtained by extraction from the leaves of ginkgo and hego ( <i>Cyathea boninsimensis</i> COPEL)	287
10	Levan (レバン) A substance that is obtained from the culture fluid of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> bacteria and consists mainly of polysaccharides	359