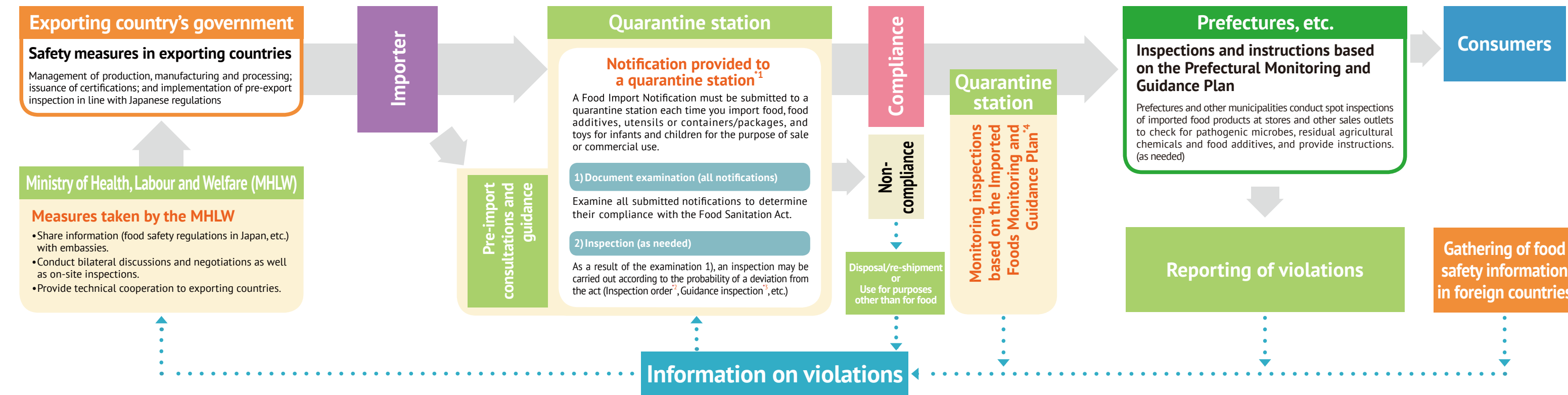


Measures for Food Safety from Farm to Table



^{*1} The information present on a Food Import Notification, such as the exporting country, imported items, producer/production sites, raw materials, production methods and the use or non-use of additives, is examined. A Food Import Notification can be submitted seven days before the estimated time of arrival of the cargo. For contact information regarding inquiries about notification and consultation on imports, see the list of offices at the back of this brochure.

^{*2} Inspection order: If the food is highly likely to violate the Food Sanitation Act, the quarantine station orders the importer to conduct an inspection. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

^{*3} Guidance inspection: This is an inspection that is conducted by importers on their own responsibility to ensure the safety of imported foods. The quarantine office may instruct importers who import food for the first time to conduct a voluntary inspection or instruct importers to conduct periodic inspections. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

^{*4} Inspections conducted to ascertain the level of residue from agricultural chemicals and other substances according to the annual plan.

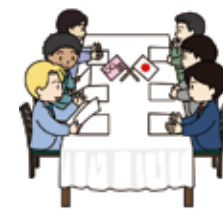
Q1 I've been told that only 10% of all imported foods are tested. Is that sufficient to ensure food safety?

A Japan imported 2,455,182 food items in FY 2021, amounting to 31,627,360 tons. Of these, 204,240 items were tested (a violation rate of 0.03%). Quarantine stations and branches provide necessary guidance to importers at consultation before importing, and they conduct document examination for all import notifications submitted at the time of import. Furthermore they conduct inspections according to the possibility for violation to effectively and efficiently ensure the safety of imported foods. More specifically, they monitor a wide variety of imported foods through monitoring inspections to identify the risk level of each food item (During FY 2021, 101,365 monitoring inspections were conducted). Based on these inspections, they identify items that are highly likely to violate the requirements, and all relevant import notifications are inspected each time they are submitted in order to prevent foods that do not meet the requirements from being imported to Japan. Furthermore, safety measures are also implemented in exporting countries through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on site inspections. As described above, we implement safeguard measures in exporting countries to ensure food safety.



Q2 What kinds of safety measures are implemented in exporting countries?

A With regard to food products that are highly likely to violate the requirements we perform more rigorous inspections when they are imported, and in addition, request that the exporting country investigate the cause of any violations, and based on the investigation result, take measures to prevent a recurrence. Furthermore, through bilateral discussions and negotiations, we take measures to ensure the proper management of production sites and the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system and pre-export inspections by the government of the exporting country in order to improve food safety. We also send specialists to exporting countries to confirm the implementation of safety measures, and organize seminars for government officials and producers of exporting countries so that they are well informed with regard to Japan's food safety regulations.



For frequently asked questions, visit the following URL:
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/000072466.html>

