# **Measures for Food Safety from Farm to Table**

On-site inspection

**Import procedures** 

(first shipment, etc.)



















Receipt and review of

import notification







**Transportation** 







Farm management

Inspection in the exporting country

**Transportation** 

## **Export country**

## **Exporting country's government** Safety measures in exporting countries

Management of production, manufacturing and processing;

issuance of certifications; and implementation of pre-export inspection in line with Japanese regulations

### Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW

### Measures taken by the MHLW

- Share information (food safety regulations in Japan, etc.) with embassies.
- · Conduct bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on-site inspections.
- Provide technical cooperation to exporting countries.

### Notification submitted to a quarantine station<sup>1</sup>

A Food Import Notification must be submitted to a quarantine station each time you import food, food additives, utensils or containers/packages, and toys for infants and children for the purpose of sale or commercial use.

**Quarantine station** 

### ocument examination (all notifications)

Examine all submitted notifications to determine their compliance with the Food Sanitation Act.

### spection (as needed)

As a result of the examination 1), an inspection may be carried out according to the probability of a deviation from the act (Inspection order<sup>2</sup>, Instruction-based inspection<sup>3</sup>, etc.)

## Quarantine station

### Inspections and instructions based on the Prefectural Monitoring and **Guidance Plan**

Prefectures, etc.

Prefectures and other municipalities conduct spot inspections of imported food products at stores and other sales outlets to check for pathogenic microbes, residual agricultural chemicals and food additives, and provide instructions.

### Reporting of violations

Gathering of food safety information in foreign countrie

# Information on violations

- \*2 Inspection order: If the food is highly likely to violate the Food Sanitation Act, the quarantine station orders the importer to conduct
- Instruction-based 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.

# In Japan

Consumers





countries.

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

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

Japan imported 2,350,033 food items in FY 2023, amounting to 29,866,575 tons. Of these, 199,272 items were tested (a violation rate of 0.03%). Quarantine stations 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 inspections are conducted according to the

possibility for violation to effectively and efficiently ensure the safety of imported foods. More specifically, through monitoring inspections a wide variety of imported

foods is monitored, and the risk level of each food item is identified (During FY 2023, 101,096 monitoring inspections were conducted). Based on these inspec-

tions, all relevant import notifications of the identified items which are highly likely to violate the requirements

are inspected each import in order to prevent foods that do

not meet the requirements from being imported to Japan.

Furthermore, safety measures are also implemented

through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as

on site inspections to ensure food safety in exporting



With regard to food products which are highly likely to violate the requirements, inspections are enhanced at the time of import, and in addition, MHLW requests that the exporting country investigates the cause of any violations, and takes appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence based on the results. Furthermore, through bilateral discussions and negotiations, measures such as the proper management of

production sites, the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system and pre-export inspections by the government of the exporting country are taken in order to improve food safety. Specialists are dispatched to exporting countries to confirm the implementation status of safety measures, and organize seminars for government officials and producers of exporting countries to inform and promote awareness of Japan's food safety regulations.



### For frequently asked questions, visit the following URL

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000072466.html





