

**【The current status of 15 Internationonally commonly used food additives  
(as of March 31, 2014)】**

**Seven substances that have been designated**

1. Magnesium hydrogen phosphate Dimagnesium phosphate (November 2, 2012)
2. Calcium saccharin (December 28, 2012)
3. Potassium lactate (May 15, 2013)
4. Potassium sulfate (May 15, 2013)
5. Calcium oxide (October 22, 2013)
6. Calcium acetate (December 4, 2013)
7. Isopropanol (December 4, 2013)

**Two substances for which assessment of Food Safety Commission (FSC) has been completed, and procedure by MHLW is in progress**

1. Polyvinylpyrrolidone
2.  $\beta$ -apo-8'-carotenal

**Six substances under risk assessment by the FSC**

1. Canthaxanthin
2. Triethyl citrate
3. Acidic sodium aluminum phosphate
4. Sodium aluminosilicate
5. Aluminium calcium silicate
6. Carmine

The study of dietary aluminum intake on Japanese citizens has found that the intake of young children is likely to exceed the JECFA PTWI (provisional tolerable weekly intake). Based on this result, Japan is reviewing the standards for all existing aluminum-containing food additives in order to decide what extent the aluminum intake derived from individual food commodities should be reduced. This is why a considerable amount of time is required.

In addition, as for Carmine, as there was a comment from the FSC that this food additive may cause allergic reaction, the MHLW is carrying out the additional kinetic study about allergic reaction.

Japan recognizes that Japan and the EU has agreed on the removal of Aluminum calcium silicate from the priority list because the additives are not distributed in the EU.

#### B. Triethyl citrate

Japan needs more time for Triethyl citrate because the MHLW is confirming that required documents are in place on the genotoxic study conducted in response to the request from the FSC. Also, the MHLW is drafting use standards based on the information provided by the EU..

The MHLW will submit to the FSC the genotoxic study results and draft standards based on the information provided by the EU. The FSC will conduct the risk assessment based on the submitted information.

#### C. Canthaxanthin

Japan also needs more time for Canthaxanthin. The MHLW will review the draft standards for Canthaxanthin based on the information to be submitted by the United States.

Japan recognizes that Japan and the EU has agreed on the removal of Canthaxanthin from the priority list because the additives have not been distributed in the EU.

#### Sunflower Lecithin (NTM issue)

The evaluation by the FSC was completed on 30 July 2013. It is now in the MHLW process for designation. The MHLW notified the WTO on January 24 and public comment was invited in the country until March 7. Sunflower Lecithin is expected to be designated in around April.