

Amendment to the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.

The Government of Japan amended the specifications for synthetic resin used for food apparatus, containers, and packaging as originally proposed.

Outline of Amendment

- Under Article 18, Paragraph (1) of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No.233 of 1947), the Prime Minister may establish specifications for apparatus, or containers and packaging or the raw materials thereof to be served for the purpose of sale or to be used for business, or may establish the standards for the production methods thereof, by hearing the opinions of the Food Safety Standards Council. The specifications and standards are prescribed in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. (Public Notice of the Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 370 of 1959; hereinafter referred to as the “the Public Notice”).

The Public Notice indicates that, for substances as raw materials of material specified by Article 1 of the Order for Enforcement of the Food Sanitation Act (synthetic resin), the quantity allowed to be contained in apparatus, or containers and packaging produced using the substances or the quantity allowed to be eluted or seep out into food from the apparatus, or containers and packaging is shown by substance in Appended Table 1 (the Positive List) in the Public Notice. This Positive List came into effect on June 1, 2020.

On November 30, 2023, the Government of Japan amended the Positive List. This time, a further amendment was made to add new substances, etc.

- The new Positive List is available at the Consumer Affairs Agency website:
https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/standards_evaluation/appliance/positive_list_new/
- The amendment to the Positive List was promulgated on September 27, 2024, and entered into force on June 1, 2025.