

Revision of the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. Under the Food Sanitation Act

The government of Japan will revise the existing standards for use for Potassium Metabisulfite, Sodium Hydrosulfite, Sodium Metabisulfite, Sodium Sulfite, Sulfur Dioxide, and Zinc Gluconate.

Background

Japan prohibits the sale of food additives that are not designated by the Prime Minister under Article 12 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947; “the Act”). In addition, when specifications or standards for food additives are stipulated in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. (Public Notice of the Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 370 of 1959) pursuant to Article 13 of the Act, the sale of those additives is prohibited unless they meet the specifications or the standards.

Outline

This revision is based on the change of use amount of target foods for Potassium Metabisulfite, Sodium Hydrosulfite, Sodium Metabisulfite, Sodium Sulfite, and Sulfur Dioxide; and the replacement of name of the target food for Zinc Gluconate.

On November 18, 2025, the Committee on Food Additives established under the Food Safety Standards Council deliberated on revision of the standards for these additives and concluded that it is appropriate to revise use standards for them pursuant to Article 13 of the Act. See Attachment for the details.

The Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.

Chapter II: Additives

F. STANDARDS FOR USE (Excerpts)

Standards applying generally to all food additives

<Standards to be amended (draft)>

The underlined parts in the following table will be added to the current standards.

2. When a food listed in column 2 of the following table that contains additives listed in column 1 of the same table is used in the process of the manufacturing or processing of any of the foods listed in column 3 in the same table, the additives contained in that food are considered to be used in the food listed in column 3.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Potassium Metabisulfite Sodium Hydrosulfite Sodium Metabisulfite Sodium Sulfite Sulfur Dioxide	<i>Amanatto</i> (dried candied beans), candied cherries (i.e., candied, pitted cherries, or such cherries which are frosted with crystal sugar or which are immersed in syrup), Dijon mustard, dried fruits (excluding raisin), dried potatoes, food molasses, frozen unheated crabs, fruit wines, gelatin, <u>grape juice added to nonalcoholic beverages [limited to products that are obtained by removing alcohol from grape wine and products that are obtained by adding grape juice (including concentrated grape juice; the same</u>	All foods excluding those listed in column 2.

	<u>applies in this table) to the aforementioned products; the same applies hereinafter in this table],</u> <i>Kanpyo</i> (dried gourd strips), <i>Konnyaku-ko</i> (Konjac powder), miscellaneous alcoholic beverages, natural fruit juice (confined to products to be consumed in 5-fold or more dilution), <u>nonalcoholic beverages</u>, prawn, simmered beans, <i>mizuame</i> (starch syrup), and tapioca starch for saccharification.	
--	---	--

Standards applying specifically to individual food additives

● Zinc Gluconate

The descriptions of the target foods in the standards will be replaced as follows.

Current standards: Foods for the ill, which are categorized as "foods for special dietary uses."

Standards to be amended (draft): Comprehensive nutrition food products.

● Potassium Metabisulfite, Sodium Hydrosulfite, Sodium Metabisulfite, Sodium Sulfite, and Sulfur Dioxide ("sulfite, etc.")

For the above individual substances, the following standards will be added to the standards for use.

Each substance must not remain at levels exceeding 0.35 g/kg as sulfur dioxide in the following products (which are currently categorized in the other foods). When using several sulfite, etc. together, they must not remain at levels exceeding 0.35

g/kg as the total amount of sulfur dioxide.

- Nonalcoholic beverages [limited to products that are obtained by removing alcohol from grape wine and products that are obtained by adding grape juice (including concentrated grape juice; the same applies hereinafter) to the aforementioned products; the same applies hereinafter]
- Grape juice that is added to nonalcoholic beverages