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## Japan

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Withdrawal of Food Additive Registrations

### 2004

**Approved by:**

Kevin Latner  
U. S. Embassy

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**Report Highlights:**

Japan has prepared a list of 38 food additives to be withdrawn from its approved list of food additives and is seeking comments on the proposed withdrawals. The comment period ends on February 26, 2004.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Tokyo [JA1]  
[JA]

On February 12, 2004, The Ministry of Labor, Health and Welfare (MHLW) invited foreign Embassies in Tokyo to comment on the proposal of the list of food additives that MHLW intends to withdraw from the List of Existing Food Additives. If MHLW determines that those food additives, or preparations or foods containing them are no longer marketed, they will be withdrawn. Foreign governments have until February 26, 2004 to comment. MHLW will open the proposal to comments to a wider audience and notify the WTO SPS Committee before final review and adoption.

This comment period is the second round of opportunity for comments following the announcement described in the GAIN Report JA3074.

All interested parties are encouraged to send their comments well before the deadline for consideration by the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA. The office responsible for the comments is as follows:

Food Safety and Technical Services  
International Trade Policy division  
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service  
Fax: 202-690-0677  
Email: [fstd@fas.usda.gov](mailto:fstd@fas.usda.gov)

The following are the document distributed by MHLW.

(Begin document)

### **Agenda 1. Withdrawal of Existing Food Additives**

#### 1. Purpose

This activity is to withdraw some food additives from the List of Existing Food Additives\*. This targets food additives that are determined to be no longer marketed.

#### 2. Background

In August 2003, the Articles 2-2 and 2-3 were newly added to the Supplementary Provisions (1995, Law No.101) of the Food Sanitation Law. Under Article 2-3, the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare may withdraw food additives from the List of Existing Food-the Ministry of Health and Welfare Announcement, No. 120, 1996 April 16-if he determines that these food additives, or preparations or foods containing them are no longer marketed, judging from the situation of the sale, manufacturing, import, processing, use, storage, and display of the substances. Prior to the withdrawal, the Minister needs to prepare and publish a list of food additives that are expected to be withdrawn, in order to seek public comments.

Once food additives are withdrawn from the List of Existing Food Additives, any person will be prohibited from selling these food additives, and preparations and foods containing those food additives.

Note: Existing food additives: non-synthetic food additives that were already marketed or

used on the date of the amendment of the Food Sanitation Law on May 24, 1995 and appear in the List of Existing Food Additives.

### 3. Procedure

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has prepared a list containing 38 food additives that are expected be withdrawn, based on surveys results. For the list see Attachment 1. The survey results include the production volume and the situation of manufacturing and distribution. The MHLW will publish the list to seek public comments and will conduct the formalities required to withdraw these 38 substances.

### 4. Future work

The MHLW will publish the list of 38 substances and notify the WTO (World Trade Organization) in February 2004. The MHLW will revise the List of Existing Food Additives at latest in July 2005. The revised List will take effect six months after the revision. Consult the time line below.

#### Time line

**February 2004 Publish the list of 38 food additives**

6 months

Comment period including WTO comment period (90 days)  
(Seek requests for corrections)

**August 2004 End of the comment period**

Confirmation of comments,  
Re-investigation

**February 2005 Revise the List of Existing Food Additives**

**August 2005 Enforce the revised List**

#### Deadline for submission of comments

Please provide the Standards and Evaluation Division with your comments on the proposed activity concerning the specifications and standards for foods by Thursday, February 26, 2004. If you do not contact us by the given date, we will assume that you have

no comments.

Contact

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## Attachment 1.

List of Food Additives That Are Expected to Be Withdrawn

No.	Name	Note
008	Achromopeptidase	
002	Aeromonas gum	A substance composed mainly of polysaccharides obtained from the cultured solution of bacteria belonging to Aeromonas.
335	Balata	A substance composed mainly of amyris acetate and polyisoprenes obtained from the secretion of balata trees.
067	Barley husk extract	A substance composed mainly of hemicellulose obtained from barley husks.
343	Beet saponin	A substance composed mainly of saponins obtained from beets.
352	Betel nut extract	A substance obtained by extraction from betel seeds.
416	Borapet	A substance composed mainly of borapetosides obtained from the stems of borapet ( <i>Tinospora tuberculata</i> ).
429	Citrus seed extract	A substance composed mainly of flavonoids and limonoids obtained from the seeds of UNSHU-MIKAN ( <i>Citrus unshiu</i> MARCOV.).
222	Edible canna extract	A substance composed mainly of flavonoids obtained from canna roots, stems or leaves.
064	Endomaltohexaohydrolase	
065	Endomaltopentaohydrolase	
060	Enju saponin	A substance composed mainly of saponins obtained from the buds or flowers of Japanese pagoda trees.
062	Enterobacter gum	A substance composed mainly of polysaccharides obtained from the cultured solution of bacteria belonging to <i>Enterobacter nichidenii</i> .
063	Enterobacter simanus gum	A substance composed mainly of polysaccharides obtained from the cultured solution of bacteria belonging to <i>Enterobacter simanus</i> .
058	Erwinia mitsuensis gum	A substance composed mainly of polysaccharides obtained from the cultured solution of bacteria belonging to <i>Erwinia mitsuensis</i> .
040	Fig leaf extract	A substance composed mainly of essential oils obtained from fig leaves.
354	Fir balsam	A substance composed mainly of $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ -canadinolic acids obtained from the secretion of fir balsam trees.
482	Forsythia extract	A substance composed mainly of phyllyrin obtained from forsythia fruits.
137	Gutta katiou	A substance composed mainly of amyris acetate and polyisoprenes obtained from the secretion of gutta katiou trees ( <i>Palaquium ganua moteleyana</i> CLARKE.).
328	Hachiku extract	A substance composed mainly of 2,6-dimethoxy-1,4-benzoquinone obtained from the skins of HA-CHIKU bamboo ( <i>Phyllostachys nigra</i> MUNRO var. <i>henonis</i> STAPP).
079	Kauri gum	A substance composed mainly of agathenecarboxylic acid obtained from the secretion of kauri trees.
166	Kojic acid	
133	Kusagi colour	A substance composed mainly of trichotomine obtained from the fruits of KUSAGI ( <i>Clerodendron trichotomum</i> THUNB.).
363	L-Fucose	
422	Madake extract	A substance composed mainly of 2,6-dimethoxy-1,4-benzoquinone obtained from the stem skins of MADAKE bamboo ( <i>Phyllostachys bambusoides</i> SIEB. et ZUCC.).
410	Magnolia obovata extract	A substance composed mainly of magnolol obtained from the bark of magnolia trees.

432	Miracle fruit extract	A substance composed mainly of miraculin obtained from miracle fruits.
306	Monellin	A substance composed mainly of monellin obtained from the fruits of <i>dioscoreophyllum cumminsii</i> ( <i>Dioscoreophyllum cumminsii</i> DIELS.)
323	Neuraminidase	
319	Nitrilase	
324	Nordihydroguaiaretic acid	
458	Oil stuff seed wax	A substance composed mainly of ceryl cerotate obtained from sunflower seeds.
346	Peanut colour	A substance obtained from peanut astringent skins.
162	Spermaceti wax	A substance composed mainly of cetyl palmitate obtained from the brain of sperm whales.
284	Tenryocha extract	A substance composed mainly of rubusoside obtained from the leaves of <i>Rubus suavissimus</i> ( <i>Rubus suavissimus</i> S. Lee.).
066	Urucury wax	A substance composed mainly of mericyl cerotate obtained from the leaves of urucury ( <i>Attalea excelsa</i> MART.).
350	Xanthomonas campestris protein [Ice nucleation protein, Ice nucleating protein]	A substance composed mainly of proteins obtained from the cytoplasm of bacteria belonging to <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> .
163	$\alpha$ -Ketoglutaric acid (extract)	A substance composed mainly of $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid obtained from the cultured solution of bacteria belonging to <i>Corynebacterium</i> , <i>Bacillus</i> , or <i>Brevibacterium</i> .

## Note:

The numbers in the left column refer to the numbers used in the original Japanese version of the List of Existing Food Additives, the Ministry of Health and Welfare Announcement, No. 120, 1996 April 16.