

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 28, 2021

Report Number: JA2021-0143

Report Name: CAA Invites Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to Food Labeling Standards

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Biotechnology - Plants and Animals, Oilseeds and Products, Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to its Food Labeling Standards, including two related to agricultural biotechnology. CAA proposes the addition of processed food containing genetically engineered (GE) mustard leaf to the list of products requiring a GE label. In addition, CAA proposes the removal of the high oleic acid trait from the list of specific genetically engineered agricultural traits that require a GE label. The public comment period closes on November 26, 2021.

Background

On October 27, Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) commenced a public comment period for the below, proposed [revisions](#) to CAA's Food Labeling Standards (see [JA7078](#) for an overview of Food Labeling Standards).

1. To reflect revisions to the "[Standard Tables of Food Composition in Japan](#)" CAA proposes corresponding changes to the analytical methods used in the Food Labeling Standards.
2. CAA proposes an addition to the list of genetically engineered (GE) agricultural crops that if used in food require a GE label. In addition, CAA proposes revisions to its labeling requirements for a product previously defined as "specific genetically modified agricultural products" because seed developers can now achieve the same traits through conventional breeding.
 - (A) CAA anticipates that food products derived from GE *karashi-na* (mustard leaf) will be distributed in Japan after the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare completes the safety examination. Therefore, CAA will add *karashi-na* to the target list of agricultural products for which GE labeling is obligatory.¹
 - (B) Seed developers can now produce soybeans with the high oleic acid trait through conventional breeding. As a result, CAA proposes to no longer consider the high oleic acid trait in soybeans as a "specific genetically engineered agricultural product." Therefore, CAA proposes to remove "high oleic acid" from the list of specific genetically engineered traits.
3. To comply with international standards, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) revised the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for [soy sauce](#). Additionally, MAFF will revise the JAS for [edible vegetable oils and fats](#). Accordingly, CAA proposes necessary revisions to the Food Labeling Standards.
4. CAA revised the [Act Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations](#) and proposes necessary revisions to the Food Labeling Standards.

For more detail, see the [CAA draft proposal](#) (Japanese only). After the public comment period, the Consumer Commission will deliberate and make a final recommendation to CAA. For more information on labeling of nutritionally enhanced genetically engineered products in Japan, please see [JA2020-0173](#).

Submitting Comments

Comments should be submitted in Japanese no later than November 26, 2021, by e-mail, fax, mail, or through the e-Gov website.

Comments via e-Gov websites: Go to [e-Gov](#). After agreeing the conditions, click “意見入力へ” to submit your comments.

¹ The Food Labeling Standards currently requires GE labeling for food products derived from eight GE crops (soybean, corn, potato, canola, cottonseed, alfalfa, sugar beet and papaya) (see [JA2021-0129](#)).

e-Mail comments to: i.shokuhin6@caa.go.jp Include “Regarding the Proposed Revisions of Food Labeling Standards” in the subject line.

FAX comments to: +81-(0)3-3507-9292 Use “Regarding the Proposed Revisions of Food Labeling Standards” as a title.

Mail comments to: 〒100-8958 3-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

To: Consumer Affairs Agency Food Labeling Planning Division

Attn.: Public Comments Team

Write “Regarding the Proposed Revisions of Food Labeling Standards” in red ink on the front side of your envelop.

Attachments:

No Attachments.