

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 19, 2022

Report Number: JA2022-0088

Report Name: Japan Opens Public Comment on GE Labeling for
Nutritionally Enhanced Rapeseed Varieties

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

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

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Report Highlights:

On October 13, the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) opened a public comment period for proposed revisions to the genetically engineered (GE) labeling requirements of the Food Labeling Standards. The revision proposes to add rapeseed varieties that produce eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and/or docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) to a list of nutritionally enhanced GE products that require GE labeling, called the Specific GE Products. If adopted, CAA will require GE labeling on products derived from these rapeseed varieties even if no foreign genetic material remains in highly refined products, such as canola oil. CAA will accept comments in Japanese through November 12, 2022.

General Information

On October 13, 2022, the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) opened a public comment period for [proposed revisions](#) to the genetically engineered (GE) labeling requirements of the Food Labeling Standards. The revision proposes to add rapeseed varieties that produce eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and/or docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) to the list of Specific GE Products.

In Japan, if foreign genetic material is not present in a highly refined product (e.g., cooking oil), GE labeling is not usually required ([JA9055](#)). However, food items derived from Specific GE Products that have had their nutritional values significantly modified by inserted foreign DNA, must be labeled as GE even if no foreign material remains in the product. For more details about the Specific GE Product and their GE labeling requirements, see [JA2020-0173](#).

Japan's Food Safety Commission (FCS) is reviewing GE rapeseed varieties that convert oleic acid to EPA and/or DHA (see [here](#) in Japanese). These varieties accumulate a higher concentration of EPA and/or DHA in the seed oil compared to other conventional canola varieties. Once the Government of Japan approves these events, the Japan market will be open to the rapeseed varieties and products derived from the rapeseed varieties.

As of October 2022, CAA designates only stearidonic acid-enhanced soybeans and high-lysine maize as Specific GE Products.

How to Submit Comments

Comments on the proposed revisions on Food Labeling Standards are due to CAA no later than November 12, 2022. CAA only accepts comments in Japanese.

CAA will receive comments via:

- [e-Gov](#) web form: Select “意見入力へ”
- E-mail: i.shokuhin6@caa.go.jp
- Fax: +81-(0)3-3507-9292
- Mail: Consumer Affairs Agency, Food Labeling Division
100-8958 3-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

Attachments:

No Attachments.