

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Modifies Handling Procedures for Genome Edited Foods

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

On September 19, 2019, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) released the updated, "Food Hygiene Handling Procedures for Food and Additives Derived from Genome Editing Technology." MHLW modified the procedures to require developers of foods that contain crossbred progeny of a genome-edited product to conduct a consultation with MHLW before the product can be marketed in Japan.

General Information

On September 19, 2019 Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare released updated handling procedures for food products derived from genome edited technology. The updated version reflects modifications requested during the June comment period ([JA9096](#)). Of note, the modification to the handling of foods containing crossbred progeny of genome edited products will now require developers to conduct consultation with MHLW before the product can be marketed in Japan. MHLW is providing an opportunity for additional comment and information on how to participate can be found in GAIN Report JA2019-0015.

A comparison of Section 6 from the June version and the September version is below.

June Version

Starts.

6. Handling of Crossbred Progeny

- (1) Regarding genome-edited food, notification is not required for the following.
 - 1) Progenies crossbred between varieties of which notification to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare was announced or crossbred with a conventional breed variety.
 - 2) Crossbred progenies between a variety of which notifications to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare were announced, and a living organism obtained using recombinant DNA technology of which safety assessment was completed.
- (2) Among genome-edited foods, prior consultation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is required for progenies crossbred between those of which are judged that safety assessment is required or crossbred with a living organism of which the metabolic pathway is modified by recombinant DNA technology

Ends.

September Version

Starts.

6. Handling of crossbred progeny

For a crossbred progeny product obtained using a conventional breeding technique between a traditional breed etc. and a breed whose notification to the MHLW as a genome editing technology derived food was published and is intended to be marketed, the MHLW will continue to consider the handling of the product.

The developer etc. of the crossbred progeny should conduct prior consultation with the MHLW by the time when a measure is established by the MHLW.

Ends.

Attachments:

No Attachments.