

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Proposes a Revision of the Specification for Hypobromous Acid Water

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On March 27, 2019, Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a proposal to revise the compositional specification for Hypobromous acid water as a food additive via [G/SPS/N/JPN/625](#). There will be no public comment period established for this proposal as this proposal relaxes the regulation. However, interested U.S. parties are welcome to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov).

Keywords: JA9037, food additive, Hypobromous Acid

General Information:

On March 27, 2019, Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a proposal to revise the compositional specification for Hypobromous acid water as a food additive via [G/SPS/N/JPN/625](#). In the notification, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), the regulatory agency responsible for food safety in Japan, revises the compositional specification per Annex 1 below for Hypobromous acid water as a food additive. This proposal will enter into force immediately upon publication in the “Kanpo” (the Japanese government’s official Gazette).

There will be no public comment period established for this proposal as this proposal relaxes the regulation. However, interested U.S. parties are welcome to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov).

(The following is taken from Japan's notification)

Annex 1 - Amendment to the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc

The government of Japan will revise the compositional specification of Hypobromous acid water.

Summary

Japan prohibits the use and the sale of food additives which are not designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") under Article 10 of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). In addition, when specifications or standards for food additives are stipulated in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370, 1959) pursuant to Article 11 of the Act, those additives shall not be used or sold unless they meet the standards or the specifications.

In response to a request from the Minister, the Committee on Food Additives of the Food Sanitation Council under the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") has discussed the adequacy of the revision of compositional specification of Hypobromous acid water. The conclusion of the Committee is outlined below.

Outline of conclusion

The Minister should revise the compositional specification of Hypobromous acid water pursuant to Article 11 of the Act (see Attachment for the details).

Hypobromous Acid Water

次亜臭素酸水

Current regulations

Definition Hypobromous Acid Water is an aqueous solution consisting mainly of hypobromous acid. It is obtained by hydrolyzing 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

Revised regulations

Definition Hypobromous Acid Water is an aqueous solution consisting mainly of hypobromous acid. It is obtained by hydrolyzing 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin or by mixing an aqueous solution of hydrogen bromide with an aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite, potassium hypochlorite, or calcium hypochlorite.