

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary \_ Public

**Date:** 6/14/2012

**GAIN Report Number:** JA2015

## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

### **Japan proposes new Standards affecting Containers and Packages for Milk Products**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Approved By:**

Jennifer Clever

**Prepared By:**

Suguru Sato

**Report Highlights:**

On June 14, 2012, the Government of Japan (GOJ) held a meeting for foreign missions to announce a “Revision to the Ministerial Ordinance Concerning Compositional Standards Etc. for Milk and Milk Products.” The domestic comment period for these changes will close on June 28, 2012. After this comment period closes, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) will then notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will then provide another opportunity for further public comments submissions on this subject.

On June 14, 2012, the Government of Japan (GOJ) held a meeting for foreign missions to announce a “Revision to the Ministerial Ordinance Concerning Compositional Standards Etc. for Milk and Milk Products.” The comment period for these proposed changes ends June 28, 2012. Any comments should be submitted to the MHLW as soon as possible.

MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject. The actual WTO/SPS notifications can be found at the site below.

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/work\\_and\\_doc\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm)

After the WTO comment period closes, a final report will be released based on the conclusions reached by a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date. This report will constitute as a final decision.

Comments to GOJ can be made either in Japanese or English and can be send to the point of contact below:

Saki OHSATO, Ms.  
Standards and Evaluation Division,  
Department of Food Safety,  
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare  
1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, 100-8916  
Tel: 03-5253-1111, ext. 2487  
Fax: 03-3501-4868  
Email; [oosato-saki@mhlw.go.jp](mailto:oosato-saki@mhlw.go.jp)

Post suggests that the U.S. Embassy - Tokyo also be copied on any comments at [agtokyo@usda.gov](mailto:agtokyo@usda.gov) to allow them to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

## **General Information:**

### **Revision to the Ministerial Ordinance Concerning Compositional Standards Etc. for Milk and Milk Products**

#### **Summary**

Containers and packages exclusively intended for milk and milk products are subject to the Ministerial Ordinance Concerning Compositional Standards Etc. for Milk and Milk Products (Ministry of Health and Welfare Ordinance No. 52, 1951, herein after referred to as the “Ministerial Ordinance”), separately from containers and packages used for other purposes.

The Ministerial Ordinance currently specifies five types of containers and packages intended for commercial milk products (plain liquid milk, certified milk, pasteurized goat milk, composition-adjusted milk, partially skimmed milk, skimmed milk, and processed milk), such as glass bottles,

synthetic-resin packages, and synthetic-resin-processed-paper packages.

As resin-made materials are only allowed for exterior packaging, i.e. not in direct contact with milk products, the Ministerial Ordinance specifies five substances (Ethylene-1-alkene Copolymers, Nylon, Polyethylene, Polyethylene Terephthalate, and Polypropylene) for synthetic-resin packages. However, the ordinance does not permit the use of two substances (nylon and polypropylene) for synthetic-resin-processed-paper packages.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has decided to remove this inconsistency in requirements and allow nylon and polypropylene use in both synthetic-resin-processed-paper and synthetic-resin packages. The Ministry has also concluded that this revision will not lead to negative effects on human health.

### **Outline of revision**

For synthetic-resin-processed-paper packages, nylon and polypropylene will be added to the resins permitted for use in exterior packaging of milk products. The existing regulations pertaining interior packaging will remain the same.