

**Partial amendment to the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. and the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, Etc.**

The government of Japan will partially revise the specifications and standards for utensils, containers, and packaging (UCP) for milk and milk products.

**Summary**

- Specifications and standards for food UCP are specified in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370 of 1959; hereinafter referred to as "the Notification") under Article 18, Paragraph (1) of the Food Sanitation Act (Act No.233 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). On the other hand, the specifications and the standards for UCP and their raw materials used for manufacturing, processing, selling, etc. of specific milk and milk products (hereinafter referred to as "the Milk etc.") are separately specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk and Milk Products Concerning Compositional Standards, Etc. (Order of the Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 52 of 1951; hereinafter referred to as "the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.").
- By the Act Partially Amending the Food Sanitation Act, etc. (Act No. 46 of 2018; hereinafter referred to as "the Amendment Act"), the Positive List system for food UCP\* is introduced. The relevant provisions in the Amendment Act comes into force on the day specified by a cabinet order, within two years from the date of promulgation of the Amendment Act (June 13, 2018).
  - \*Under the system, all substances are basically prohibited from being used. The substances of which the government permits the use are listed and only substances evaluated as safe are permitted to be used.
- The Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council has approved the transfer of the specifications and standards for raw materials used for UCP for the Milk etc. to the Notification. With this approval, the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc. and the Notification will be partially amended.

**Outline of the amendment**

- Delete the descriptions on the specifications for UCP etc. or their raw materials and the manufacturing standards prescribed in Articles 1 and 3 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.

- Transfer the provisions concerning UCP in Appended Table [4] of the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc. to “E. Specifications by Application for utensils, containers, and packaging” of the Notification taking into consideration the following items.
  - a. In the Notification, describe the specifications and standards specifically for easier understanding instead of descriptions like “Follow mutatis mutandis XX”, which are used in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.
  - b. Simplifying duplication of descriptions of testing methods etc.
  - c. Delete the provisions concerning approvals by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare for the use of UCP other than those stipulated in the Ministerial Ordinance on Milk, etc.