



Food Contact Materials

Product requirements in Japan
under the EU-Japan EPA



Contents

1. Overview.....	3
1.1 Tariff Rates	3
1.2 Domestic Regulations.....	3
1.3 Environmental Regulations which apply to Imported Goods in General	3
1.3.1 Labelling Requirements Prescribed under the Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources	3
1.3.2 Requirement to Recycle Containers/Packages Made of Paper, Plastic, PET, or Glass	3
2. Cookware.....	4
2.1 Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act	4
2.2 Standards for Chemicals/Additives.....	4
2.3 Labelling	5
2.3.1 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act	5
2.3.2 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act	5
2.3.3 The Obligation to Report Serious Incidents Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act	6
2.3.4 Cookware that is also an Electronic Appliance	6
3. Cutleries.....	7
3.1 Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act.....	7
3.2 Standards for Chemicals/Additives	7
3.3 Labelling	8
3.3.1 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act	8
3.3.2 The Obligation to Report Serious Incidents Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act	8

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1. Overview

1.1 Tariff Rates

- For more detailed information on tariff rates please refer to [My Trade Assistant](#)

1.2 Domestic Regulations

- Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organisation (MIPRO): [Guide to Import of Apparatuses for Food 2017](#) (October 2017) (Japanese)
- MIPRO: [Guide to Import of Apparatuses for Food 2014](#) (March 2014) (English)
- MIPRO: [Guide to Safety Assurance for Products Imported to Japan](#) (November 2013) (English)

1.3 Environmental Regulations which apply to Imported Goods in General

1.3.1 Labelling Requirements Prescribed under the Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI): [Description of the Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources](#) (Japanese)
 - Description of the requirement to put an identification mark on paper and plastic containers/packages which indicates that those containers/packages are made of paper or plastics that is recyclable.
- Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

1.3.2 Requirement to Recycle Containers/Packages Made of Paper, Plastic, PET, or Glass

- METI: [Description of the Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources](#). You can find further information [here](#) (Japanese)
 - Description of the requirement to recycle paper, plastic, PET, or glass containers/packages imposed on enterprises (which meet the thresholds for turnover or number of employees, and which import these containers/packages or use these containers/packages when they sell their products). These entities can also fulfill their obligations by paying commissions to the Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association, which is a public interest incorporated foundation.

- Act on the Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2. Cookware

2.1 Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act

- MHLW: [Import Procedure under Food Sanitation Act](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc.](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Import procedures](#) (Japanese)
 - The [import notification form](#) for submission to the quarantine information office is available in Japanese
- Food Sanitation Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2.2 Standards for Chemicals/Additives

- MHLW: [Draft Positive Lists](#) of the chemicals and additives which are to be allowed to be contained in cookware and packaging of food products sold in Japan (Japanese, partially English)
- More information in English can be found [here](#) on the amendment of Food Sanitation Act and the Positive List. Within that file a link is provided to the draft positive lists in excel (available both in Japanese and English).
 - The notification which prescribes the positive lists is scheduled to be published in February 2020, and the positive lists will be implemented from June 1, 2020. The Committee on the Regulation of Food Utensils, Containers, and Packaging recommended that the MHLW take a sufficient transition period for about 5 years before requiring all the relevant stakeholders to comply with the positive lists.
- For more information on the discussion in the [Committee on the Regulation of Food Utensils, Containers, and Packaging](#) regarding the implementation of the positive lists, please see the reference material published in Japanese by the Committee, which is disclosed with the [member list and other materials](#) (Japanese)
- MHLW: [Amendment of the Food Sanitation Act](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Food Safety Information](#) (English)

- MHLW: [Food Safety](#) (English)
 - (Links to laws and regulations are provided under the Acts and Regulations section.)
- MHLW: [Utensils, Containers and Packaging](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Report by the Committee on the Regulation of Food Utensils, Containers and Packaging](#) (June 16, 2017) (English)
- MHLW: [The summary of the amendment to the Cabinet Order and Ordinance for Enforcement of the Food Sanitation Act](#) (2018) (English)
- MHLW: [Guideline for safety assurance in the manufacture etc. of food utensils, containers and packaging](#) (July 10, 2017) (English)
- MHLW: Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370, 1959) > [Utensils, Containers, Packaging, Toys](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Introducing the positive list to cookware and food containers](#) (August 2019) (Japanese)
- JETRO: [Trade and Investment Q&A - How to import cookware into Japan](#) (Japanese)

2.3 Labelling

2.3.1 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act

- [Consumer Affairs Agency; Handbook of the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act](#) (English, as of April 2017)
 - Information required to be displayed on cookware, etc.
- [Household Goods Quality Labeling Act](#) (English and Japanese)

2.3.2 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act

- METI: [Description of the Consumer Product Safety Act](#) (Japanese)
 - Description of the “PSC (Product Safety of Consumer Products) Mark” which is required to be displayed on certain types of consumer products with high potential for consumer injury (e.g. pressure cookers).

- Consumer Product Safety Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2.3.3 The Obligation to Report Serious Incidents Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act

- METI: [Handbook for enterprises outlining the incident reporting and disclosure system](#) (Japanese)
- Consumer Product Safety Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2.3.4 Cookware that is also an Electronic Appliance

2.3.4.1 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Act on the Rational Use, etc., of Energy

- Agency for Natural Resources and Energy - METI: [Description of the labelling showing whether the product meets the “Top-Runner” standards](#) (Japanese)
 - Article 147 of the Act on the Rational Use etc. of Energy imposes an obligation on manufacturers of “Energy-Consuming Equipment” (designated under Article 18 of the Ministerial Order of the Act on Rationalizing Energy Use, including rice cookers and cookware using gas energy) to display the energy consumption efficiency of the product.
- [Act on the Rational Use, etc., of Energy](#) ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2.3.4.2 Permission from the MIC Minister (Microwave Heaters or IH Cooking Heaters)

- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC): [Procedures for exemption from the requirement to obtain certain permissions from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications](#)
 - Permission from the MIC Minister is required when microwave heaters or IH cooking heaters which fall under the category of Equipment Utilizing High Frequency Currents, as defined under the Radio Act, are installed, unless the manufacturer or importer has confirmed the conformity of the heaters with the Radio Act and has submitted a report of such confirmation to the MIC Minister.
- Radio Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese
- MIC: [Enforcement Regulations of the Radio Act](#) (Japanese)

3. Cutleries

3.1 Import Procedures under the Food Sanitation Act

- MHLW: [Import Procedure under Food Sanitation Act](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc.](#) (English)
- MHLW: [Import procedures](#) (Japanese)
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3.2 Standards for Chemicals/Additives

- MHLW: [Draft Positive Lists](#) of the chemicals and additives which are to be allowed to be contained in cookware and packaging of food products sold in Japan (Japanese, partially English)
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- Food Sanitation Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

3.3 Labelling

3.3.1 Labelling Requirement Prescribed under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act

- CAA: [Handbook of the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act](#) (English, as of April 2017)
 - Information required to be displayed on tableware and kitchen utensils, etc.
- [Household Goods Quality Labeling Act](#) (English and Japanese)

3.3.2 The Obligation to Report Serious Incidents Prescribed under the Consumer Product Safety Act

- METI: [Handbook for enterprises outlining the incident reporting and disclosure system](#) (Japanese)
- Consumer Product Safety Act ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.