

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 03, 2023

**Report Number:** JA2023-0053

**Report Name:** Japan 256th Food Safety Group

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Prepared By:** Tomohiro Kurai

**Approved By:** Mariya Rakhovskaya

**Report Highlights:**

Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan's maximum residue levels for 8 agricultural chemicals (Dimethomorph, Fenamiphos, Fluxapyroxad, Prothioconazole, Clostebol, Cyphenothrin, Ormetoprim, Tribromsalan) for various agricultural commodities. MHLW also proposed to designate Bismuth subnitrate as an exempted substance for an MRL establishment. In addition, MHLW proposed to revise standards for use of L-Cysteine Monohydrochloride as a food additive. Regarding food additives, MHLW opens comments for the MHLW's proposal of deleting 78 existing food additives. Lastly, MHLW shared the next step for Japan's transition to the Positive List System for food apparatus, containers, and packaging. Interested U.S. parties should submit their comments to [PlantDivision@usda.gov](mailto:PlantDivision@usda.gov) for plant products, to [TFAA.FAS.AnimalDivision@usda.gov](mailto:TFAA.FAS.AnimalDivision@usda.gov) for animal products, and to [PPTRD@usda.gov](mailto:PPTRD@usda.gov) for processed products by July 7, 2023.

## General

On June 14, 2023, at the 256th Food Safety Group meeting, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan's maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the following agricultural chemicals:

### Pesticides

- Dimethomorph
- Fenamiphos
- Fluxapyroxad
- Prothioconazole

### Veterinary drugs

- Clostebol
- Cyphenothrin
- Ormetoprim
- Tribromsalan

MHLW also proposed to designate bismuth subnitrate as a substance "Having No Potential to Cause Damage to Human Health". Upon implementation, this designation will exempt bismuth subnitrate from MRL establishment.

In addition, MHLW proposed to revise use standards for L-Cysteine Monohydrochloride as a food additive. Furthermore, MHLW has undertaken a review of approved food additives. As a result of this process, to date 132 substances have been deleted from the approved food additive list. MHLW has selected additional 78 substances (see appendix 1 of the attached document) to delete from its approved food additive list based on MHLW's study of distribution and use. MHLW invites comments from U.S. stakeholders regarding this proposal. In particular, MHLW requests relevant U.S. industries to inform MHLW if any of the substances proposed for deletion from the approved list are used as food additive in the United States and need to remain approved for use in foods exported and distributed in Japan.

Lastly, MHLW shared the next step for Japan's transition to the Positive List System for food apparatus, containers, and packaging. MHLW has revised its initial proposal (shared at [248<sup>th</sup> FSG](#)) following comments received from trading partners. On June 23, 2023, the new draft proposal with lists of base materials and additives was published at [MHLW's website](#). MHLW welcomes comments on this draft proposal.

For details of Japan's proposal, please consult the attached document distributed by MHLW. MHLW shared the document electronically with Tokyo-based embassies. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to submit their comments about plant-related proposals to [PlantDivision@usda.gov](mailto:PlantDivision@usda.gov), animal-related proposals to [TFAA.FAS.AnimalDivision@usda.gov](mailto:TFAA.FAS.AnimalDivision@usda.gov), and processed-product related proposals to [PPTRD@usda.gov](mailto:PPTRD@usda.gov) by July 7, 2023. Japan will subsequently notify these revisions to the World Trade Organization, which will provide another opportunity to comment.

**Attachments:**

[256th FSG \(English\).pdf](#)