

To all pet food manufacturers, importers, and sellers

Ensuring Pet Food Safety

Purpose of the Act for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food (the Pet Food Safety Act)

The purpose of the Pet Food Safety Act is to ensure the safety of pet food by regulating the production of pet food, etc., thereby protecting the health of pets and contributing to animal welfare.



Outline of the Pet Food Safety Act

○ Pet foods subject to the Act

Complete and balanced pet foods, general pet foods, treats, snacks, gums, supplements, and mineral waters, etc. that provide nutrition for **dogs and cats**, excluding veterinary medicines, etc. (veterinary medicines, etc. are not subject to this act as they are regulated by the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.)

○ Setting standards and specifications for pet foods, and prohibiting manufacture

The government can set standards for the methods of manufacturing and labeling of pet foods; set specifications for constituents; and prohibit the manufacture, import, or sale of pet foods that do not meet these standards and specifications.

○ Prohibition on the manufacture, etc. of pet food containing harmful substances

Manufacturing, importing, or selling pet food, etc. that contains harmful substances is prohibited.

○ Orders to dispose of pet food, etc.

If pet foods that do not meet standards/specifications or that contain harmful substances are sold, then the government will order the business operator to dispose of and recall, etc. the pet foods.

○ Obligation of manufacturers, etc. to notify

Pet food importers or manufacturers must make notification of their name and the name of business premises, etc.

○ Obligation to keep books

Pet food importers, manufacturers, and distributors (except retailers) must record the name and quantity, etc. of pet food sold and keep these records.

○ Collecting reports and on-the-spot inspections, etc.

The government and the Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center (FAMIC) will collect reports about and conduct on-the-spot inspections of pet food importers, manufacturers, and distributors, etc.

Notifications

- ◆ Regardless of whether you are a corporation or an individual, any business that imports or is a manufacturer of pet foods **must submit a notification before starting.**
- ◆ **Submit the notification to the Regional Agricultural Administration Office (please refer to the list)** that has jurisdiction over the prefecture where your main office (head office, etc.) is located.
- ◆ **If there are any changes to the information you have submitted or if the business is being discontinued or taken over, immediately submit a notification.**



- Notifications can also be submitted through the Common Application

System of MAFF (eMAFF). For more information, refer to the following website:

"Submitting Pet Food Manufacturer Notifications and Importer Notifications, etc. through eMAFF" (Japanese)

<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syoutan/tikusui/petfood/eMAFF/emmaff-petfood.html>

Required Documents for Notifications

- Notification form
(one original, plus one additional copy if a copy is required)
- Documents proving the existence of the business operator
(**certified copy of business register, residence certificate**, etc.)



- The notification form can be downloaded from the following website:

Pet Food Safety (Japanese)

<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syoutan/tikusui/petfood/index.html>



Keeping Books

- ◆ Business operators that import, manufacture, or wholesale pet food are required to record the names and quantity, etc. of the pet foods that they import, manufacture, or sell in their books or on a computer, and to **retain these records for two years.**

Cases where books are required, and the items to be recorded

If manufactured	If imported	If sold to a business
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and quantity of the pet food• Date of manufacture• Names and quantities of raw materials used to manufacture• Date of receipt of the raw materials, and name of the other party in the transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and quantity of the pet food• Date of importation• Name of import country, and name of supplier• Type of packing of the pet food• Country of manufacture, name of manufacturer, and name of raw materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and quantity of the pet food• Name of the other party in the transfer• Date of transfer• Type of packing of the pet food

- There is no need to keep book entries for sales that are made directly to pet owners

Labeling Standards

◆ Pet food is **required** to have the following information labeled in **Japanese**:

- (1) Name of pet food, (2) Best before date, (3) Ingredient names, (4) Country of origin, and (5) Business operator's name and address

Labeling Example



■ ABC Pet Food for Dogs

■ Best before date:

Printed on the bottom of the bag in YYYYMM format.

■ Names of ingredients:

Grains (corn, wheat), meat (beef, chicken), vegetables (spinach, carrots), minerals (P, Ca), Vitamins (A, B2, C), antioxidants (mixed tocopherols)

■ Name of country of origin:

Japan

■ Manufacturer:

ABC Pet Food Co., Ltd.

〒100-0000 1-2-3 XX-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

(1) Name of pet food

The name of the product, but when written, **make it clear that it is for dogs or cats**.

- If it is difficult to tell from the product name whether the pet food is for dogs or cats, then you can write "for dogs" or "for cats" in addition to the product name, or you can, for example, write "complete and balanced pet food for adult dogs" in the general display section so that it is clear whether the pet food is for dogs or cats.

(2) Best before date

Should be listed as the “賞味期限 (Best before):” and labeled in YYYYMMDD or YYYYMM format (E.g.: 202508)

- This date must be set based on scientific and rational evidence.

(3) Ingredient names

Under “原材料名 (Ingredients names)” or “原材料 (Ingredients)”, in principle, **list all ingredients** used (incl. additives).

- If sweetener, color fixative, preservative, thickening, antioxidant, or colorants are used as additive, then both the name of additive and the name of use must be listed.

E.g.: Antioxidants (mixed tocopherols)

↑ ↑

name of use name of additive

- The Pet Food Safety Act does not stipulate the order in which ingredients must be listed. However, from the perspective of providing appropriate information to consumers, it is generally best to list ingredients in order of the amount used.

(4) Country of origin

Under “原産国名 (Name of Country of Origin)” or “原産国 (Country of Origin)”, list the country where the final processing step that brought about a substantial change in the product was completed.

- If the country of origin is Japan, then it can simply be indicated as “国産 (made in Japan)”.

(5) Business operator's name or title and address

List the category of business operator (**limited to** 製造業者・製造者 (manufacturer), 輸入業者・輸入者 (importer), 販売業者・販売者 (seller), and list their name or title and address.

- As a general rule, business operator that manufacture should be labeled as 製造業者・製造者 (manufacturer) and import should be labeled as 輸入業者・輸入者 (importer).

○ For details on pet food labeling, also refer to the following:

- Enforcement of the Pet Food Safety Act (Japanese)

<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/attach/pdf/index-38.pdf>

(In particular, refer to Section III.3.(3) Labeling Standards

(Appendix 3 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Ingredient Specifications, etc.))

- Labeling of Country of Origin for Commercial Pet Food (Japanese)

http://www.famic.go.jp/ffis/pet/tuti/25_5295.html



Specifications for Constitutions

◆ These components must not be present in pet food above their respective maximum limits.

Classification	Components, etc.	Maximum limits (µg/g) ^{Note}
Mycotoxins	Aflatoxin B ₁	0.02
	Deoxynivalenol	2 (for dog), 1 (for cat)
Heavy metals, etc.	Cadmium	1
	Lead	3
	Inorganic Arsenic	2 (sum of inorganic arsenic (III) and inorganic arsenic (V))
Organo-chlorine compounds	BHC	0.01 (sum of α-BHC, β-BHC, γ-BHC, and δ-BHC)
	DDT	0.1 (incl. DDD and DDE)
	Aldrin and Dieldrin	0.01 (total amount)
	Endrin	0.01
	Heptachlor and Heptachlor epoxide	0.01 (total amount)
Pesticides	Chlorpyrifos-methyl	10
	Pirimiphos-methyl	2
	Malathion	10
	Methamidophos	0.2
	Glyphosate	15
Additives	Ethoxyquin, BHA, BHT	150 (total amount) Ethoxyquin in dog food: below 75
	Sodium nitrite	100
Other	Melamine	2.5

Note: Maximum limit for 10% moisture content. The unit for additives is g/t.

Standards for Method of Manufacturing

◆ Pet food must be manufactured in compliance with the following standards.

Classification	Substances, etc.	Standard
General ingredients	Other harmful substances, etc.	Ingredients that are containing harmful substances, contaminated with microbe or suspected for any of those shall not be used
Harmful micro-organisms	Harmful microorganisms in general	In case of applying heat to or drying pet food, process shall be sufficiently effective to eliminate any microorganisms that are present in the pet food originated in its raw materials or are possibly developed within
Additives	Propylene glycol	Not to be used for manufacturing in pet food for cats

◆ We will continue to collect scientific knowledge and will add target substances and review standards as necessary.

On-the-spot Inspections

- ◆ The government and FAMIC will conduct on-the-spot inspections for importers, manufacturers, and sellers, etc., without prior notice, in principle.
- ◆ These inspections will confirm that record books are being properly kept and whether the imported/manufactured pet food complies with standards and specifications.
- ◆ Products may be seized for analysis.

How business operators should respond in the event of an accident

- Manufacturers, importers and sellers bear the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of pet food, so it is their responsibility to use safe ingredients and to manufacture, import, and sell safe pet food.
- If you believe that a product has caused injury to the health of a pet, then immediately contact the pet food officer at the Regional Agricultural Administration Office (Pet owners should contact the nearest Regional Environmental Office of the Ministry of the Environment.)
- Establish an accident manual so that you can quickly respond in the event of an accident.
- If you recall a product, then be sure to make the information public so as to alert consumers.
- Make an effort to provide careful and considered information and explanations on a regular basis.



- How to avoid violating the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

Even if a product is a pet food, depending on the ingredients, labeling, advertising materials (magazines, Internet, etc.) and oral promotion, it may be considered a veterinary drug and subject to regulation under the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products, Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.

For whether or not a product is a veterinary drug, etc., refer to the following:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Concept of whether or not a product falls under the category of veterinary drug, etc. (Japanese)
https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/yakuzi/y_import/index.html
- Pet Food Fair Trade Association
Guidelines for pharmaceutical expressions in pet food (Japanese)
<https://pffta.org/hyouji/guidelines.html>



You should carefully review the contents of the above notices and, if you have any questions about whether the product is regulated as a veterinary drug, please contact the Prefecture (Animal Pharmaceutical Affairs Supervising Division) where your place of business is located.

Contact Information for Business Operators Regarding the Pet Food Safety Act

- ◆ If you have any questions about the Pet Food Safety Act, then contact your Regional Agricultural Administration Office that has jurisdiction over the prefecture in which your principal place of business (head office, etc.) is located.
- ◆ When visiting an office to submit notifications, etc., make sure to check the schedule of the person in charge at the Regional Agricultural Administration Office in advance.

Name [Area of Responsibility]	Postal Code	Address and URL	Tel. No.
Hokkaido Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Hokkaido]	064-8518	M's Minami 22-jo Building, 6-2-22, Minami 22-jo Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo City, Hokkaido (https://www.maff.go.jp/hokkaido/anzen/kanri/petfood.html)	011-330-8816
Tohoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Aomori Pref., Iwate Pref., Miyagi Pref., Akita Pref., Yamagata Pref., Fukushima Pref.]	980-0014	3-3-1 Honcho, Aoba-ku, Sendai City, Miyagi Pref. (Sendai Joint Government Building A)	022-745-9384
Kanto Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Ibaraki Pref., Tochigi Pref., Gunma Pref., Saitama Pref., Chiba Pref., Tokyo, Kanagawa Pref., Yamanashi Pref., Nagano Pref., Shizuoka Pref.]	330-9722	2-1 Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Pref. (Saitama Shintoshin Joint Government Building No. 2) (https://www.maff.go.jp/kanto/syo_an/anzen/petfood.html)	048-740-5065
Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Niigata Pref., Toyama Pref., Ishikawa Pref., Fukui Pref.]	920-8566	2-2-60 Hirosaka, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Pref. (Kanazawa Hirosaka Joint Government Building) (https://www.maff.go.jp/hokuriku/safe/safe/petfood_anzenhou.html)	076-232-4106
Tokai Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Gifu Pref., Aichi Pref., Mie Pref.]	460-8516	1-2-2 Sannomaru, Naka-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture (https://www.maff.go.jp/tokai/shohi/anzen/petfood/index.html)	052-223-4670
Kinki Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Shiga Pref., Kyoto Pref., Osaka Pref., Hyogo Pref., Nara Pref., Wakayama Pref.]	602-8054	Chojiburo-cho, Shimochojamachi-sagaru, Nishinotoin-dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref. (Kyoto Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries General Office Building) (https://www.maff.go.jp/kinki/syohi/mn/noutiku/petfood.html)	075-414-9000
Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Tottori Pref., Shimane Pref., Okayama Pref., Hiroshima Pref., Yamaguchi Pref., Tokushima Pref., Kagawa Pref., Ehime Pref., Kochi Pref.]	700-8532	1-4-1 Shimoishii, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama Pref. (Okayama Second Joint Government Building)	086-224-4511 (ext. 2394)
Kyushu Regional Agricultural Administration Office Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau [Fukuoka Pref., Saga Pref., Nagasaki Pref., Kumamoto Pref., Oita Pref., Miyazaki Pref., Kagoshima Pref.]	860-8527	2-10-1 Kasuga, Nishi-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Pref. (Kumamoto Regional Joint Government Building) (http://www.maff.go.jp/kyusyu/syohianzen/nouchiku/petfood.html)	096-211-9255
Okinawa General Bureau, Cabinet Office Food Safety and Consumer Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department [Okinawa Pre.]	900-0006	2-1-1 Omoromachi, Naha City, Okinawa Pref. (Naha 2nd Regional Joint Government Building No. 2)	098-866-1672

- A list of Regional Environmental Offices of the Ministry of the Environment that pet owners should contact is posted here (Japanese):
https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/p_toiawase/kankyo_zimusyo.html



- Materials and Q&A regarding the Pet Food Safety Act are posted on the following website: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries/Pet Food Safety (Japanese)
<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/index.html>

