

Formats and methods of grade labeling for foods and drinks, and oils and fats

1 Scope

This document specifies formats and methods of grade labeling for foods and drinks, and oils and fats listed in the left column of **Table 1** provided by product handles, production process managers, distribution process managers, overseas product handles, overseas production process managers, and overseas distribution process managers according to provisions set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 3 of Article 10 and Paragraphs 1 through 3 of Article 30 of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards (Act No. 175 of 1950).

2 Format of grade label

The format of the grade label shall be as shown in the right column of **Table 1** for each item of foods and drinks, or oils and fats listed in the left column.

Table 1 — Formats of the grade label for each item of foods and drinks, or oils and fats

<p>A.1 Bacons (excluding bacon), bone-in ham, Lachsschinken and sausages (excluding Bologna sausage, Frankfurter sausage, Vienna sausage, Lyoner sausage, semi-dried sausage and dried sausage)</p> <p>A.2 Macaroni products</p> <p>A.3 Carbonated beverage</p> <p>A.4 Processed tomato products (excluding tomato ketchup)</p> <p>A.5 Flavored seasoning</p> <p>A.6 Dehydrated soups</p> <p>A.7 Dressings</p> <p>A.8 High fructose syrup and sugar added high fructose syrup</p> <p>A.9 Instant noodles</p> <p>A.10 Vegetable protein</p> <p>A.11 Shavings of dried fish (Kezuribushi)</p> <p>A.12 Brewed vinegar</p> <p>A.13 Edible refined and processed oils and fats</p> <p>A.14 Soy milks</p> <p>A.15 Canned livestock products and bottled livestock products (excluding canned corned beef and bottled corned beef)</p> <p>A.16 Margarines</p> <p>A.17 Dried noodles</p> <p>A.18 Pickled agricultural products</p> <p>A.19 Total sugar glucose</p> <p>A.20 Shortening</p> <p>A.21 Refined lard</p> <p>A.22 Carrot juice and carrot mixed juice</p> <p>A.23 Canned marine products and bottled marine products</p> <p>A.24 Fruit juice</p> <p>A.25 Canned agricultural products and bottled agricultural products [excluding canned bamboo shoots and bottled bamboo shoots (limited to whole and halves), large canned bamboo shoots (limited to whole (excluding whole with defects) and halves), canned peach and bottled peach (limited to halves), canned pear and bottled pear (limited to halves), and canned 'fruit mitsumame (mixture of boiled peas, agar cubes and fruit pieces with molasses)' and bottled 'fruit mitsumame']</p>	<p>Annex A</p>
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Table 1 — Formats of the grade label for each item of foods and drinks, or oils and fats *(continued)*

<p>A.26 Bread crumbs</p> <p>A.27 Easily chewable and swallowable foods</p>	<p>Annex A</p>
<p>B.1 Canned bamboo shoots and bottled bamboo shoots (limited to whole and halves), large canned bamboo shoots [limited to whole (excluding whole with defects) and halves], canned peach and bottled peach (limited to halves), canned pear and bottled pear (limited to halves), and canned ‘fruit mitsumame’ and bottled ‘fruit mitsumame’</p> <p>B.2 Bacon, hams (excluding born-in ham and Lachsschinken), pressed ham, Bologna sausage, Frankfurter sausage, Vienna sausage, Lyoner sausage, semi-dried sausage and dried sausage</p> <p>B.3 Soy sauce (Shoyu)</p> <p>B.4 Jams</p> <p>B.5 Worcester sauces</p> <p>B.6 Tomato ketchup</p> <p>B.7 Hamburger patty and chilled hamburgersteak</p> <p>B.8 Chilled meat ball</p> <p>B.9 Glucose (excluding total sugar glucose)</p> <p>B.10 Boiled and dried small fishes</p> <p>B.11 Dried buckwheat noodles</p> <p>B.12 Canned corned beef and bottled corned beef</p>	<p>Annex B</p>
<p>C.1 Aged hams, aged sausages and aged bacons</p> <p>C.2 Naturally grown chicken (Zidoriniku)</p> <p>C.3 Hand-made Japanese noodles</p> <p>C.4 Pure apple juice not from concentrate</p> <p>C.5 Beef with production details</p> <p>C.6 Pork with production details</p> <p>C.7 Agricultural products with production details</p> <p>C.8 Cultivated fish with production details</p> <p>C.9 Aquaculture products by artificial seedling production techniques</p> <p>C.10 Foods produced with the participation of persons with disabilities</p> <p>C.11 Chicken eggs and meat by sustainable system</p>	<p>Annex C</p>

Table 1 — Formats of the grade label for each item of foods and drinks, or oils and fats *(continued)*

D.1 Organic products of plant origin	Annex D
D.2 Organic processed food	
D.3 Organic livestock products	

3 Method of grade labeling

The method of grade labeling shall be as follows:

- a)** Each grade label shall be affixed to an invoice, or at a readily identifiable location on each container or package.
- b)** Characters, illustration, and other matters to show the details of the Japanese Agricultural Standards related to the grading may be shown in the vicinity of the format of grading labeling. In this case, any matter that could cause the general consumer to misunderstand the details of the Japanese Agricultural Standards related to the grading shall not be shown.

Annex A
(normative)

Format A of grade label

The format of the grade label shall be as shown in **Figure A.1**



Figure A.1 — Format A of grade label

- a) When a grade label is affixed to each container or package, the outer diameter of the circle of the grade label shall be as shown in **Table A.1**.

Table A.1 — Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label

Category	Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label
Macaroni products, high fructose syrup and sugar added high fructose syrup, instant noodles (excluding grade labeling on containers or packages containing 50 g or less noodles and grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 135 g of raw-type instant noodles), vegetable protein, edible refined and processed fats and oils, total sugar glucose, and bread crumbs	20 mm or more

Table A.1 — Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label *(continued)*

Category	Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label
<p>Bacon (excluding bacon), bone-in ham and Lachsschinken, sausages (excluding Bologna sausage, Frankfurter sausage, Vienna sausage, Lyoner sausage, semi-dried sausage and dried sausage), brewed vinegar (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 500 mL or more), soy milks (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 500 mL or more), margarines (excluding grade labeling on containers or packages containing 115 g or less), dried noodles, pickled agricultural products (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 300 g or more), shortening, refined lard, and fruit juice (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 1 800 mL or more)</p>	<p>15 mm or more</p>
<p>Carbonated drinks (excluding grade labeling on the bottle cap), processed tomato products (excluding tomato ketchup), flavored seasoning, dehydrated soups, dressings, instant noodles (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 50 g or less noodles and grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 135 g of raw-type instant noodles), shavings of dried fish (Kezuribushi), brewed vinegar (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 500 mL), soy milks (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 500 mL), canned livestock products and bottled livestock products (excluding canned corned beef and bottled corned beef), margarines (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 115 g or less), carrot juice and carrot mixed juice, canned marine products and bottled marine products, fruit juice [limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 1 800 mL (excluding grade labeling on the bottle cap)], canned agricultural products and bottled agricultural products [excluding canned bamboo shoots and bottled bamboo shoots (limited to whole and halves), large canned bamboo shoots (limited to whole (excluding whole with defects) and halves), canned peach and bottled peach (limited to halves), canned pear and bottled pear (limited to halves), and canned 'fruit mitsumame' and bottled 'fruit mitsumame'], and easily chewable and swallowable foods (excluding grade labeling on containers or packages with a displayable area of approximately 150 cm² or less)</p>	<p>10 mm or more</p>
<p>Pickled agricultural products (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing less than 300 g)</p>	<p>7 mm or more</p>

Table A.1 — Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label *(continued)*

Category	Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label
Carbonated drinks (limited to grade labeling on the bottle cap), fruit juice (limited to grade labeling on the bottle cap), and easily chewable and swallowable foods (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages with a displayable area of approximately 150 cm ² or less)	5 mm or more

- b)** The width of the edge of the circle shall be 1/20 of the outer diameter of the circle.
- c)** The height of the JAS characters shall be 3/10 of the outer diameter of the circle.
- d)** The name of the certification body shall be printed in the vicinity of the circle. An abbreviation may be used for the name of the certification body.
- e)** The name of the certification body may be omitted for carbonated drinks (limited to grade labeling on the bottle cap), fruit juice (limited to grade labeling on the bottle cap), and foods and drinks, and oils and fats with a displayable area of approximately 150 cm² or less.

Annex B
(normative)

Format B of grade label

The format of the grade label shall be as shown in **Figure B.1**



Figure B.1 — Format B of grade label

- a) When a grade label is affixed to each container or package, the outer diameter of the circle of the grade label shall be as shown in **Table B.1**.

Table B.1 — Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label

Category	Outer diameter of the circle of a grade label
Glucose (excluding total sugar glucose)	20 mm or more
Bacon, hams (excluding bone-in ham and Lachsschinken), pressed ham, Bologna sausage, Frankfurter sausage, Vienna sausage, Lyoner sausage, semi-dried sausage and dried sausage, soy sauce (Shoyu) (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 1 800 mL or more), hamburger patty, chilled hamburger steak, and dried buckwheat noodles	15 mm or more
Canned bamboo shoots and bottled bamboo shoots (limited to whole and halves), large canned bamboo shoots [limited to whole (excluding whole with defects) and halves], canned peach and bottled peach (limited to halves), canned pear and bottled pear (limited to halves), canned 'fruit mitsumame' and bottled 'fruit mitsumame', soy sauce (Shoyu) (limited to grading labeling on containers or packages containing 201 mL or more and less than 1 800 mL), jams, Worcester sauces, tomato ketchup, chilled meat ball, boiled and dried small fishes, and canned corned beef and bottled corned beef	10 mm or more
Soy sauce (Shoyu) (limited to grade labeling on containers or packages containing 200 mL or less)	7 mm or more

- b)** The width of the edge of the circle shall be $1/20$ of the outer diameter of the circle.
- c)** The height of the JAS characters shall be $3/10$ of the outer diameter of the circle.
- d)** The height of the characters of classification shall be $1/5$ of the outer diameter of the circle.
- e)** The classification labeling may be omitted when the classification of following items is Normal grade: canned bamboo shoots and bottled bamboo shoots (limited to whole and halves); large canned bamboo shoots [limited to whole (excluding whole with defects) and halves]; canned peach and bottled peach (limited to halves); canned pear and bottled pear (limited to halves); canned 'fruit mitsumame' and bottled 'fruit mitsumame'; canned corned beef and bottled corned beef; jams; or Worcester sauces.
- f)** The classification and the name of the certification body shall be printed in the vicinity of the circle. An abbreviation may be used for the name of the certification body.
- g)** The name of the certification body may be omitted for foods and drinks, and oils and fats with a displayable area of approximately 150 cm² or less.

Annex C
(normative)

Format C of grade label

The formats of the grade label shall be as shown in **Figure C.1** or **Figure C.2**.

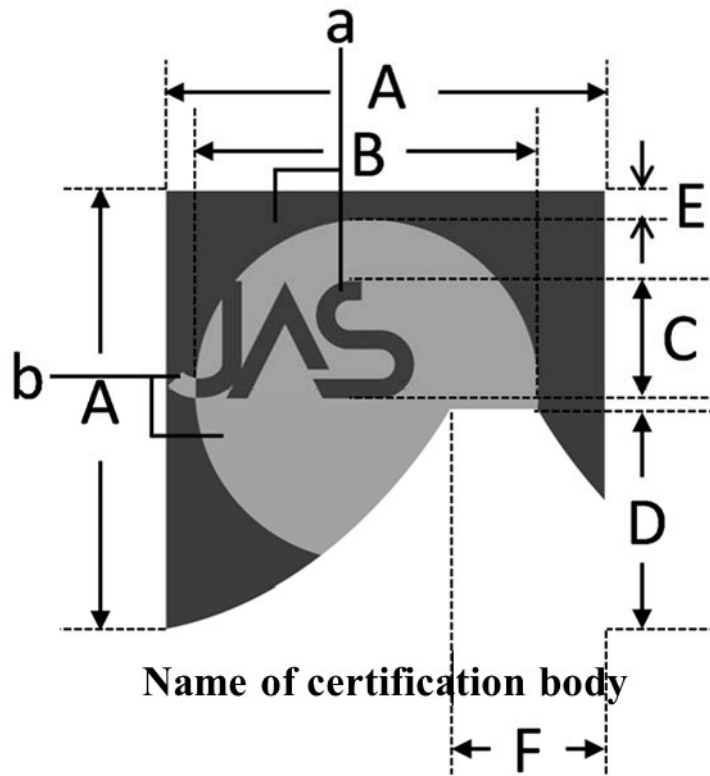


Figure C.1 — Format C of grade label (colored)

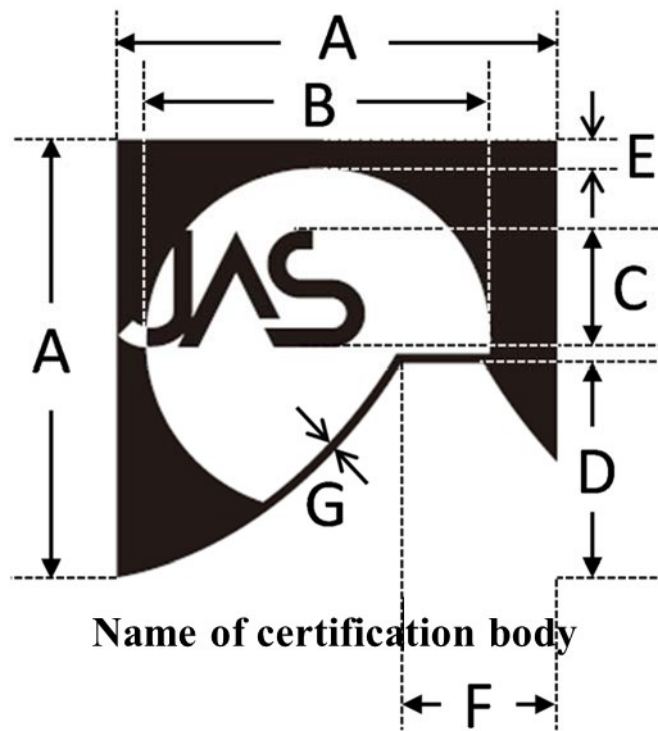


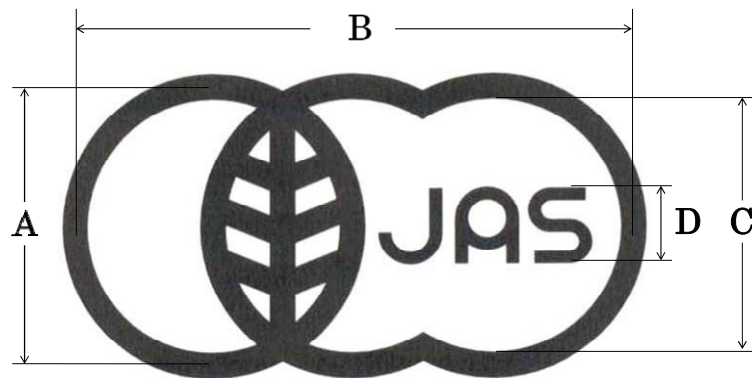
Figure C.2 — Format C of grade label (monochrome)

- a) B shall be $\frac{8}{10}$ of A, C shall be $\frac{27}{100}$ of A, D shall be $\frac{49}{100}$ of A, E shall be $\frac{65}{1\ 000}$ of A, F shall be $\frac{35}{100}$ of A, and G shall be $\frac{36}{100}$ of E.
- b) An abbreviation may be used for the name of the certification body.
- c) In **Figure C.1**, the color of part a shall be different from that of part b.

Annex D
(normative)

Format D of grade label

The format of the grade label shall be as shown in **Figure D.1**.



Name of certification body

Certification number

Figure D.1 — Format D of grade label

- a) A shall be at least 5 mm.
- b) B shall be twice as long as A, and D shall be 3/10 of C.
- c) The height of the characters of the certification body shall be equal to D.
- d) An abbreviation may be used for the name of the certification body.
- e) The certification number may be omitted in cases where such production process managers, re-packers, overseas production process managers, overseas re-packers, or importers of such organic products of plant origin, organic processed foods or organic livestock products can be identified by the descriptions shown on the packages, containers, or invoices of such foods and drinks, or oils and fats in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws and regulations.

History of establishment and revisions

Establishment: Public Notice No. 1182 of August 18th, 1979
Revision: Public Notice No. 1472 of October 24th, 1979
Revision: Public Notice No. 208 of February 25th, 1980
Revision: Public Notice No. 1373 of October 3rd, 1980
Revision: Public Notice No. 1155 of August 7th, 1981
Revision: Public Notice No. 1260 of August 21st, 1981
Revision: Public Notice No. 15 of January 9th, 1982
Revision: Public Notice No. 1434 of July 16th, 1984
Revision: Public Notice No. 536 of April 22nd, 1985
Revision: Public Notice No. 1104 of July 22nd, 1985
Revision: Public Notice No. 1485 of October 5th, 1985
Revision: Public Notice No. 913 of June 9th, 1986
Revision: Public Notice No. 1679 of October 4th, 1986
Revision: Public Notice No. 1897 of November 25th, 1986
Revision: Public Notice No. 1281 of September 24th, 1987
Revision: Public Notice No. 1370 of September 6th, 1988
Revision: Public Notice No. 569 of April 20th, 1989
Revision: Public Notice No. 843 of June 28th, 1990
Revision: Public Notice No. 1485 of November 29th, 1990
Revision: Public Notice No. 1135 of August 30th, 1991
Revision: Public Notice No. 713 of June 12th, 1992
Revision: Public Notice No. 850 of July 23rd, 1993
Revision: Public Notice No. 1135 of August 9th, 1994
Revision: Public Notice No. 69 of January 22nd, 1996
Revision: Public Notice No. 384 of March 26th, 1996
Revision: Public Notice No. 391 of March 28th, 1996
Revision: Public Notice No. 593 of April 22nd, 1997
Revision: Public Notice No. 604 of April 24th, 1997
Revision: Public Notice No. 1099 of July 4th, 1997
Revision: Public Notice No. 1079 of July 22nd, 1998
Revision: Public Notice No. 848 of June 21st, 1999
Revision: Public Notice No. 823 of June 9th, 2000
Revision: Public Notice No. 1392 of August 30th, 2002
Revision: Public Notice No. 1719 of November 8th, 2002
Revision: Public Notice No. 1720 of November 8th, 2002
Revision: Public Notice No. 562 of March 28th, 2003
Revision: Public Notice No. 777 of May 22nd, 2003
Revision: Public Notice No. 1926 of November 25th, 2003
Revision: Public Notice No. 936 of April 15th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1224 of June 25th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1250 of June 29th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1408 of July 21st, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1471 of August 4th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1488 of August 11th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 1565 of August 26th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 2021 of November 12th, 2004
Revision: Public Notice No. 556 of March 24th, 2005
Revision: Public Notice No. 1262 of July 29th, 2005
Revision: Public Notice No. 1616 of October 27th, 2005
Revision: Public Notice No. 1999 of December 27th, 2005

Revision: Public Notice No. 26 of January 11th, 2006
Revision: Public Notice No. 169 of February 17th, 2006
Revision: Public Notice No. 667 of May 2nd, 2006
Revision: Public Notice No. 692 of May 12th, 2006
Revision: Public Notice No. 594 of May 7th, 2007
Revision: Public Notice No. 1349 of October 30th, 2007
Revision: Public Notice No. 1493 of November 28th, 2007
Revision: Public Notice No. 421 of March 21st, 2008
Revision: Public Notice No. 493 of April 9th, 2009
Revision: Public Notice No. 522 of April 16th, 2009
Revision: Public Notice No. 2566 of December 12th, 2012
Revision: Public Notice No. 2774 of November 12th, 2013
Revision: Public Notice No. 1100 of August 14th, 2014
Revision: Public Notice No. 1270 of June 1st, 2016
Revision: Public Notice No. 1570 of August 17th, 2016
Revision: Public Notice No. 686 of March 29th, 2018
Revision: Public Notice No. 2815 of December 28th, 2018
Revision: Public Notice No. 597 of March 29th, 2019
Revision: Public Notice No. 511 of March 17th, 2020
Final Revision: Public Notice No. 920 of May 31st, 2021

Enactment text, amendment text, supplementary provisions, etc. (Extract)

- Public Notice of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries No. 2815 of December 28th, 2018

Supplementary provisions

(Effective Date)

- 1 This Public Notice comes into effect as of the date of its promulgation. However, the parts related to aquaculture products by artificial seedling production techniques in Table 1 under the formats and methods of grade labeling for foods and drinks, and oils and fats after the revision by this Public Notice (hereinafter referred to as the “new public notice”) come into effect as of January 27th, 2019.

(Transitional Measures)

- 2 For certified business operators of foods and drinks, and oils and fats as listed in Annex 3, Annex 5 or Annex 6 of the formats and methods of grade labeling for the foods and drinks, and oils and fats prior to the revision by this Public Notice at the time of the enforcement of this Public Notice (certified business operators set forth by Article 46, paragraph (1), item (1), (d), 1 of Order for Enforcement of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards), the provisions then in force may be chosen to continue to govern the grade labeling for the foods and drinks, and oils and fats from the date of enforcement of this Public Notice to March 31st, 2022, notwithstanding the grade labeling according to Annex C of the new public notice.

- Public Notice of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries No. 920 of May 31st, 2021

This Public Notice comes into effect as of May 31st, 2021.