

Missions of FAMIC

FAMIC contributes to food safety through inspections of food and agricultural materials:

- Ensuring the quality and safety of fertilizers, soil improvement materials, agricultural chemicals, animal feeds, and feed additives
- Improving the quality and labeling of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products

Our inspections are based on the nine laws:

- Fertilizer Control Law
- Soil Fertility Enforcement Law
- Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law
- Feed Safety Law
- Pet Food Safety Law
- Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) Law
- Food Labeling Act
- Food Safety Basic Act
- Cartagena Law

Contribution as a government agency:

As governmental officials, we are authorized to conduct on-site inspections of manufacturing plants of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, feeds, and foods, as well as other related facilities.

For safety of
fertilizers

Review of applications for registration of fertilizers

Manufacturing, imports, and sales are only allowed to registered fertilizers which meet the official standards established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). FAMIC reviews applications for registration submitted from manufacturers, and conducts laboratory analysis and field tests on sample fertilizers in order to determine whether they meet the standards required by Fertilizer Control Law.

On-site inspections of fertilizer manufacturers

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of the facilities such as manufacturing plants and storehouses of fertilizers to examine their production records and other documents. We also collect samples of fertilizers from manufacturers in order to analyze and determine whether they meet the standards required by Fertilizer Control Law. FAMIC reviews the revision of standards based on the latest scientific findings, and on the requests from the fertilizer manufacturers.



Sampling of fertilizer at a fertilizer plant



Analysis of lead and cadmium in fertilizer by using ICP-MS



Growth experiment by using an artificial climate chamber

Evaluation of agricultural chemicals for registration

FAMIC reviews applications for registration of agricultural chemicals under Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law. The application data includes the test results for evaluating efficacy of agricultural chemicals, as well as residues in/on crops, toxicity to crops and to humans and animals, and adverse effects on the environment including soil, water, and ecosystems. Samples are also provided to FAMIC for detailed verification of the application data.

GLP inspection of laboratories

The Japanese government adheres to the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) principles established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). FAMIC is responsible for conducting GLP compliance monitoring of test facilities which generate data for registration of agricultural chemicals.

On-site inspection of agricultural chemical manufacturers

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections on agricultural chemical manufacturing plants, and examines their production records and other documents to confirm that agricultural chemicals are properly produced. FAMIC also collects samples of agricultural chemicals for laboratory analysis.



Complete set of application documents and related test results



Reception of application for registration of agricultural chemicals

On-site inspections of feed and feed additive manufacturers and importers

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of feed and feed additive manufacturers and importers, and examines their production / import records and other documents to confirm that they are produced in accordance with the standards and the guidelines established by MAFF. FAMIC also collects samples of feed and feed additives for laboratory analysis to confirm that the amount of feed additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or controlled below the maximum acceptable level. FAMIC also conducts on-site inspection of manufacturers of animal-derived feed ingredients for the purpose of preventing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).



Analysis of mycotoxin contained in feed by using LC-MS.

Offical assay of feed additives

Manufacturers and importers of specified feed additives such as antibiotics are obliged to take an official assay conducted by FAMIC before they offer their products to the market. However, they will be exempted from the assay if their products are registered as GMP-confirmed products. FAMIC is in charge of the examination of manufacturers of feed additives in order to verify that their products conform to GMP.



Sampling of feed at a compound feed plant

On-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers

Under the Pet Food Safety Law established in June 2009, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers to examine related documents such as production records and import records, and confirm that their products are in conformity with the standards set by MAFF and the Ministry of the Environment. FAMIC collects samples of pet foods to confirm that the amount of additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or controlled below the maximum acceptable level.

For safety of
agricultural
chemicals

For safety of
animal feeds

For safety of
pet foods

Certification and audit for maintaining proper JAS system

The JAS standards for food and plywood/timber sections are set by MAFF under the JAS Law in order to improve quality of agricultural and forestry products, and rationalize their production and consumption. Organizations who have been certified by the registered certifying bodies have right to put the JAS mark labels on their products under the condition that the products meet the JAS standards.



Classification of the JAS mark labels:
(A) General products
(B) Specified products
(C) Organic products
(D) Products offered with production information

Auditing the certifying bodies

FAMIC conducts reviews of applications submitted from organizations seeking for registration as a certifying body, and regular audits of the registered certifying bodies. At the same time, document examinations and on-site inspections are conducted based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 to determine whether the organization meets the criteria for registration.



Assessing the quality of woods as a building materials

Researches and studies on JAS standards for future revision

The JAS standards are to be reviewed within five years after their establishment in order to meet the needs of society. FAMIC conducts researches and studies related to the review based on the request of MAFF.



On-site inspection of the overseas farm to audit a certifying body

Keeping an eye on food labeling

For the purpose of assisting consumers in choosing foods, Consumer Affairs Agency sets the standards for food labeling under Food Labeling Act to provide the information such as a name of the food, ingredients, preservation method, a name of the manufacturer and its address.



Collecting food samples

FAMIC purchases food samples from the market for laboratory analysis, and verify descriptions on the labeling which include place of origin, variety, and component ratio of ingredients (e.g. in the case of labeling on wheat noodles, or soba: ratio of buckwheat flour and wheat flour). When the result of analysis indicates the possibility of false labeling, on-site inspection will be conducted by FAMIC and MAFF officials. We provide a hotline for consumers to collect information of foods with inappropriate or false labeling.



Identifying species and varieties of foods by using DNA analysis method



Determining geographical origin of foods by using ICP-MS



Examining inclusion of high fructose corn syrup in foods by using IRMS

For proper food
labeling