

**The summary of the amendment to the Specifications and Standards for
Foods, Food Additives, Etc.
(Ministry of Health and Welfare Notification No. 370, 1959)**

The government of Japan is planning to amend the specifications and standards for food utensils, containers, and packaging (UCP) made of synthetic resin.

Background

- The Act Partially Amending the Food Sanitation Act, etc. (Act No. 46 of 2018) promulgated in June 2018 fixed the Positive List system. By this system, only substances that are raw materials for the materials specified by the Cabinet Order (the target material will be synthetic resin) and that are included in the raw materials; and assured its safety are permitted to be used for UCP. An amendment to the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc. will be made to specify the details.
- This amendment will be promulgated around December 2019 and enforced in the summer of 2020.

Outline of the amendments

- The paragraph (3) of Article 18 of the Act prescribes that the substances that are raw materials for materials specified by the Cabinet Order (the target material will be synthetic resin) and that are included in the raw materials shall have standards prescribed in the paragraph (1) of Article 18 of the Act. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) establishes standards for the base polymers and the additives etc. in the Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc. (A. General Specifications for Apparatus, Containers and Packaging, and their Materials of Chapter III: Apparatus, Containers and Packaging).
- The current draft of Positive List (PL) is posted on the MHLW website:
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_06143.html

The manner of submitting comments

If there is any substance meets the items below, please submit the information using the designated form via the following e-mail address:

- (1) It is need to be added to the Japanese PL because it is a raw material of synthetic resin currently used for UCP and is not listed in the current draft of PL; or
- (2) The information in the draft PL is need to be corrected.

Contact address

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Note: Please e-mail with the subject “Comments on the Japanese Positive List system for UCP” in the title.

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