Labelling System for Genetically Modified Foods

Food Labelling Division,
Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan
No problem of safety in genetically modified (GM) agricultural products (Food Sanitation Act)

The mandatory labelling system for genetically modified foods was instituted in 2001 (Food Labelling Act at present)

- 8 Agricultural products (*1) and 33 processed foods (*2) are subject to the mandatory labelling requirements
- Labelling is not required for the processed foods in which modified DNA etc. are undetectable after processing (soy sauce, vegetable oil, etc.)

### Example of Mandatory Labelling

**Cases identifying genetically modified agricultural products**

- Papaya (genetically modified) etc.

**Cases not identifying (not segregating) GM agricultural products and non-GM agricultural products**

- Corn (GM not segregated) etc.

### Example of Voluntary Labelling

**Cases identifying non-GM agricultural products (possible to label the foods other than the 33 processed foods)**

- Soybean (not genetically modified) etc.

*1 Soybean, corn, potato, alfalfa, sugar beet, oil-seed rape, cotton seed, and papaya, which are not cultivated for edible use domestically.

*2 Foods in which modified DNA etc. are detectable after processing (bean curd, canned corn, etc.).
Voluntary labelling system for GM was amended in April this year (2019) in order to provide consumers with correct information for preventing false recognition and enlarging opportunity to make a choice.

Amendment points are as follows:

① Soybeans and corns treated under identity preserved handling and the commingling GM product is 5% or less may be labelled as “properly treated under IP handling,” a statement in accordance with the fact.

② In case that no GM product commingling is recognized, the statement of “not genetically modified” may be labelled.

The new system comes into force as from April 1, 2023.

Outline of GM Labelling (voluntary labelling) Amendment

Voluntary labelling and voluntary labelling are based on the implementation of identity preserved handling by a business operator.
COI Disclosure Information

Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan
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I have no financial relationships to disclose