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Incorporated Administrative Agency

Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center

Tentative Translation

Japanese Agricultural Standard for Easily Chewable and Swallowable Foods

Established: Notification No. 1568 of August 17, 2016.

(Scope)

Article 1: Among easily chewable and swallowable foods, this standard applies to easy-to-chew foods, foods that can be chewed by the gums, foods that can be chewed by the tongue, and foods not requiring chewing.

(Terms and Definitions)

Article 2: In this standard, definition of the terms listed in the left column of the following table is provided in the right column of the table.

Terms	Definition
Easily Chewable and Swallowable Foods	Processed foods that can be chewed with less effort compared with ordinary foods due to their properties and qualities such as hardness (excluding baby foods)
Easy-to-Chew Foods	Easily chewable and swallowable foods with such hardness that allows easy biting, crushing, or grinding (limited to those having certain chewiness)
Foods that can be Chewed by the Gums	Easily chewable and swallowable foods with moderate hardness between the easy-to-chew foods and the foods that can be chewed by the tongue
Foods that can be Chewed by the Tongue	Easily chewable and swallowable foods with hardness such that the food can be chewed between the tongue and the palate
Foods Not Requiring Chewing	Easily chewable and swallowable foods with hardness that allows swallowing without chewing

(The Standard for Easy-to-Chew Foods)

Article 3: The criteria of easy-to-chew foods are as follows:

Classification		Criteria
Quality	Properties of the content during eating	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable appearance and taste/flavor in general as foods served for human consumption. 2. Suitable adhesiveness and cohesiveness.
	Hardness of the content during eating	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Among the contents of the food, the hardest ingredient shall have hardness that allows easy biting, crushing, or grinding (limited to those contents with moderate chewiness). 2. Information regarding compliance of the contents with the provision in 1 shall be provided to the general consumers by one of the following methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) use of Internet for the public to view; (2) publications such as brochures and leaflets to easily attract general consumers' attention; (3) display in the store to easily attract general consumers' attention; (4) notification to the general consumers upon request from them, clearly indicating the contact address on the products. <p>In case of the products for business use (products other than those provided in the form to sell to general consumers; the same applies hereinafter), the above may be omitted.</p>
	Net contents	The net contents shall be consistent with the one indicated on the label.
	Additives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additives shall comply with the provisions of 3.2 of the General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995, Rev. 7-2006), which was stipulated by the Joint Food Standard Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. In addition, the conditions for use of such additives shall comply with the provisions of 3.3 of CODEX STAN 192. 2. The amounts of respective additives used shall be accurately recorded and the record shall be kept. 3. Information regarding the compliance of the additives with the provision of 1 shall be provided to general consumers by one of the following methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) use of Internet for the public to view; (2) publications such as brochures and leaflets to easily attract general consumers' attention; (3) display in the store to easily attract general consumers' attention; (4) notification to the general consumers upon request from them, clearly indicating the contact address on the products. <p>In case of the products for business use, the above may be omitted.</p>
	Conditions of container/package	Tightly sealed and good appearance.

Food labeling	Labeling information	In addition to the requirements of the Food Labeling Standards (Cabinet Office Ordinance No.10 of 2015), the following specific provisions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) easiness to chew; (2) cooking method (limited to foods that require cooking (excluding simple heating)), if the foods are other than those listed in the upper column of the Appended Table 19 of the Food Labeling Standards (limited to foods that include the cooking method or usage in the middle column, labeling information); (3) in the case of the products for business use, net contents or drained weight and total contents.
	Labeling method	In addition to the requirements of the Food Labeling Standards, for the methods of labeling for easiness to chew, cooking method, and net contents or drained weight and total contents, the following specific provisions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) easiness to chew: “easily chewable” shall be declared on the label; (2) cooking method: the cooking method shall be declared according to the characteristics of the food; (3) net contents or drained weight and total contents: net contents or drained weight and total contents shall be declared according to the labeling method prescribed in the lower column of the row, net contents or drained weight and total contents, in the Table of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Food Labeling Standards; provided, however, among the foods listed in the upper column of the appended Table 4 of the Food Labeling Standards, in the case of foods that include net contents in the middle column, labeling information, net contents or drained weight and total contents shall be declared according to the labeling method prescribed in the lower column of the same row.
	Presentation of mandatory information	In addition to the requirements of the Food Labeling Standards, the easiness to chew, the cooking method, the net contents or the drained weight and the total contents shall be declared on a part of the container or the package so as to be easily seen (on a part of the container or the package so as to be easily seen or in the invoice if the product is intended for business use).

(The Standard for Foods that can be Chewed by the Gums)

Article 4: The criteria of foods that can be chewed by the gums are as follows:

Classification		Criteria
Quality	Properties of the content during eating	Same as specified in the properties of the content during eating in the preceding Article.
	Hardness of the contents during eating	1. Among the contents of the food, the hardest ingredient shall have moderate hardness between the easy-to-chew foods and foods that can be chewed by the tongue. 2. Same as specified in 2 for the hardness of the contents during eating in the preceding Article.
	Net contents	Same as specified in the net contents in the preceding Article.
	Additives	Same as specified in additives in the preceding Article.
	Conditions of container/package	Same as specified in conditions of container/package in the preceding Article.
Food labeling	Labeling information	Same as specified in labeling information in the preceding Article. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the gums.”
	Labeling method	Same as specified in labeling method in the preceding Article. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the gums.”
	Presentation of mandatory information	Same as specified in presentation of mandatory information in the preceding Article. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the gums.”

(The Standard for Foods that can be Chewed by the Tongue)

Article 5: The criteria of foods that can be chewed by the tongue are as follows:

Classification		Criteria
Quality	Properties of the content during eating	1. Suitable appearance and taste/flavor in general as foods to serve for human consumption. 2. Suitable adhesiveness and cohesiveness. 3. No remarkable syneresis.
	Hardness of the contents during eating	1. Among the contents of the food, the hardest ingredient shall have hardness such that it can be crushed between the tongue and the palate. 2. Same as specified in 2 for the hardness of the contents during eating in Article 3.
	Net contents	Same as specified in net contents in Article 3.
	Additives	Same as specified in additives in Article 3.
	Conditions of container/package	Same as specified in conditions of container/package in Article 3.
Food labeling	Labeling information	Same as specified in labeling information in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the tongue.”
	Labeling method	Same as specified in labeling method in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the tongue.”
	Presentation of mandatory information	Same as specified in the presentation of mandatory information in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewable by the tongue.”

(The Standard for Foods Not Requiring Chewing)

Article 6: The criteria of foods not requiring chewing are as follows:

Classification		Criteria
Quality	Properties of the contents during eating	1. Suitable adhesiveness and cohesiveness. 2. No remarkable syneresis.
	Hardness of the contents during eating	1. Hardness that can be swallowed without chewing. 2. Same as specified in 2 for the hardness of the contents during eating in Article 3.
	Net contents	Same as specified in net contents in Article 3.
	Additives	Same as specified in additives in Article 3.
	Conditions of container/package	Same as specified in conditions of container/package in Article 3.
Food labeling	Labeling information	Same as specified in labeling information in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewing not required.”
	Labeling method	Same as specified in labeling method in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewing not required.”
	Presentation of mandatory information	Same as specified in the presentation of mandatory information in Article 3. However, in this case, the term “easily chewable” shall be deemed to be replaced with “chewing not required.”

(Schedule)

Notification No. 1568 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of August 17, 2016 comes into effect as of September 16, 2016.