

Current Topics on Food Additives: Focusing on Eighth Edition Japan's Specifications and Standards for Food Additives

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The Japan's Specifications and Standards for Food Additives have been revised regularly, since the first edition was published in 1960. Eight years have already elapsed as shown below, since the latest edition (seventh) was published in 1999.

<u>Published Year</u>			
The first edition	1960	The second edition	1966
The third edition	1974	The fourth edition	1978
The fifth edition	1986	The sixth edition	1992
The seventh edition	1999		

In August 2003, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare established a panel to publish the eighth edition. The purpose of this panel was to publish the eighth edition in conjunction with the advances in analytical technology and the progress in technologies for manufacturing food additives and controlling their quality.

The following is a fundamental policy for the revision:

1. To complete the revision by the end of March 2004.
2. To follow the seventh edition's policy.
3. To attain the harmonization with standards including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food additives and the Japanese Pharmacopoeia.
4. To employ actively infrared adsorption spectroscopy for the identification.
5. To have standards of natural additives

In this paper, the author introduces the outline of the revision and the future task.