

Overview of Pet Food Safety Act

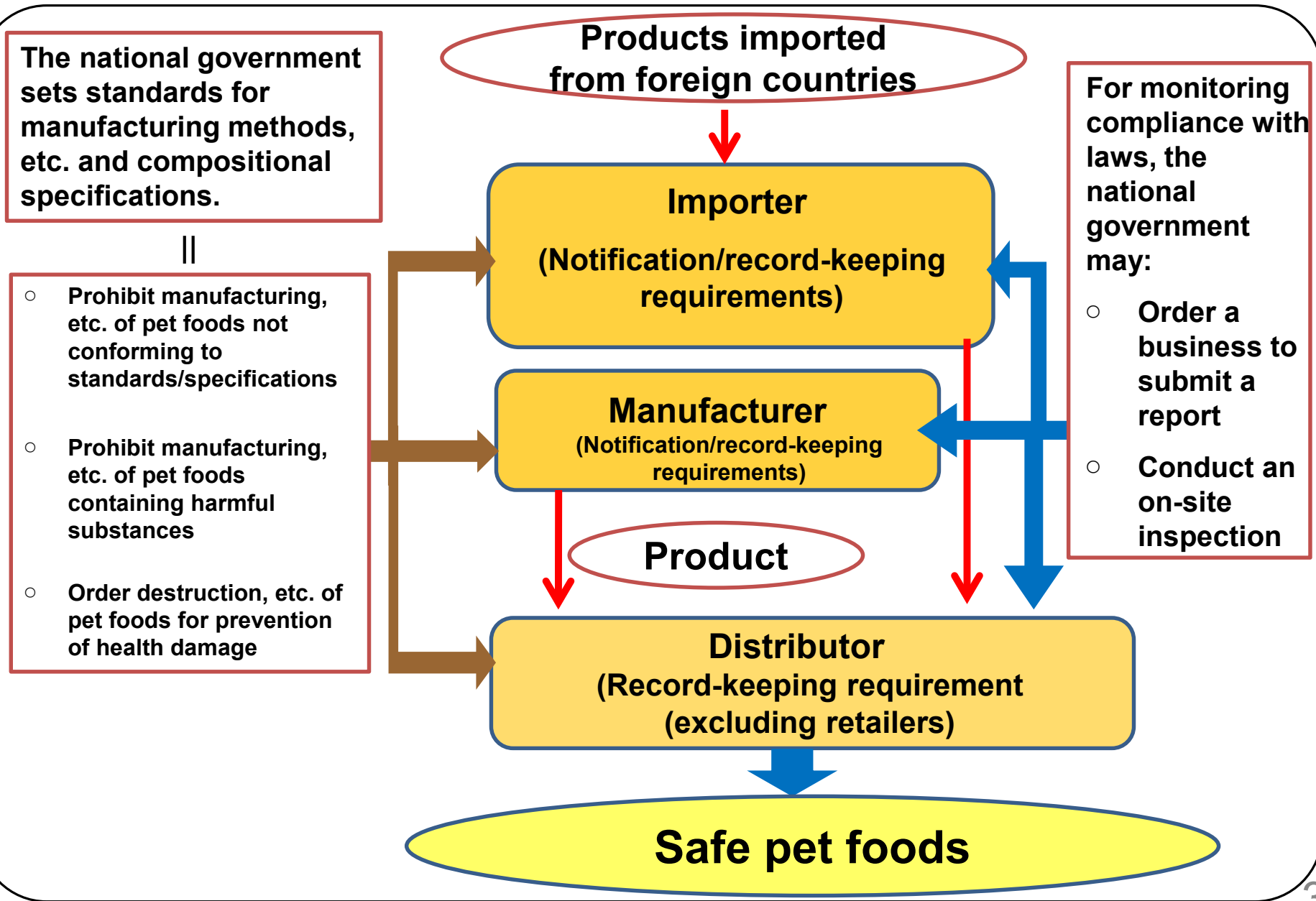
June 2021

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Animal Products Safety Division

1. Background of Legislation of Pet Food Safety Act

1. In the U.S., in 2007, several accidents causing deaths of dogs and cats due to pet foods occurred in a row.
2. Due to a concern over such accidents also in Japan, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and MAFF established the “Study Group on Securing Safety of Pet Foods” in August 2007.
3. The following recommendations were made by the Study Group: (i) from the standpoint of animal protection, securing safety of pet foods requires urgent actions; (ii) necessary and appropriate actions should be taken for each stage of manufacturing, import and sale; and (iii) laws and regulations are necessary for sufficiently securing the safety of pet foods.
4. Based on the above recommendations, MOE and MAFF promulgated the Act on Ensuring of Safety of Pet Food (“Pet Food Safety Act”) on June 18, 2008.

2. Overview of Pet Food Safety Act



3. Compositional Specifications

Type		Substance, etc.	Maximum level (μg/g)※
Additives (2 items)		Ethoxyquin/dibutylhydroxytoluene (BHT)/butylhydroxyanisol (BHA)	150 (total quantity) For food for dogs, ethoxyquin must be 75 μg/g or less.
		Sodium nitrite	100
Pesticides (5 items)		Chlorpyrifos-methyl	10
		Pirimiphos-methyl	2
		Malathion	10
		Methamidophos	0.2
		Glyphosate	15
Contaminants	Mycotoxin (2 items)	Aflatoxin B ₁	0.02
		Deoxynivalenol	2 (for dogs), 1 (for cats)
	Heavy metal, etc. (3 items)	Cadmium	1
		Lead	3
		(~September 30, 2021) Arsenic	15
		(October 1, 2021~) Inorganic Arsenic	2 (sum of As(Ⅲ) and As(Ⅴ))
	Organic chlorine compounds (5 items)	BHC (total quantity of α-BHC, β-BHC, γ-BHC and δ-BHC)	0.01
		DDT (including DDD and DDE)	0.1
		Aldrin/dieldrin (total quantity)	0.01
		Endrin	0.01
		Heptachlor/heptachlor epoxide (total quantity)	0.01
	Others (1 item)	Melamine	2.5

※ The unit for additives is g/t.

4. Standards for Manufacturing Methods

Type	Substances, etc.	Standards
Harmful microorganisms	Harmful microorganisms (in general)	Heating or drying must be applied by a method having sufficient effect for eliminating microorganisms generating from or growing in ingredients, etc.
Additives	Propylene glycol	Must not be used for cat foods.
Ingredients (in general)	Other harmful substances, etc.	Ingredients which actually or potentially contain any harmful substances or are contaminated by pathogenic microorganisms must not be used.

General regulations: Regulation under Article 7 of the Act depending on the necessity

5. Labeling Standards

For securing safety and identifying the cause in the case of an accident, Japanese labeling of the following five information items is required.



① Name

The product name of the relevant pet food. The name must be represented in a way which enables distinction between pet foods for dogs or cats.

② Ingredients

In principle, all ingredients used (including additives) must be listed. In some cases, ingredients excluding additives may be listed by a category name, e.g. “cereals,” “fish.”

③ Best before date

Indicate year/month/date or year/month.

④ Name and address of manufacturer/importer/distributor

List the person responsible for the listed information, together with the type of the relevant business entity.

⑤ Country of origin

The country where the production process involving substantial change was finally completed.