

Test results for radioactivity on tea produced in Shizuoka prefecture

The Shizuoka Prefectural Government conducted tests for radioactivity on tea produced in Shizuoka prefecture. Research on first harvest fresh tea leaves and brewed tea tests revealed that radioactivity values fell below the provisional regulation values enforced by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan and the Food Sanitation Act of Japan. The measured results are in following table1.

With regard to the first harvest of processed tea produced in Shizuoka prefecture, tests conducted on June 7 and 9 in 19 locations determined that radioactivity levels did not exceed the regulatory values. The measured results are in following table1.

Tests on second harvest of crude tea were conducted from June 10 to 20 in 16 locations of Shizuoka prefecture, and it was determined that radioactivity did not exceed the regulatory values. The measured results are in following table1. Remaining locations will be tested in due course.

However, voluntary tests conducted on June 9 by a private company reported that tea produced in Warashina and Ryogohchi areas, both within Shizuoka city, exceeded regulatory values. Official tests were immediately conducted, and it was indeed confirmed that radioactive levels had exceeded regulatory values in Warashina area. The Shizuoka Prefectural Government called for shipment restraint and voluntary recall of the concerned tea sources.

The Shizuoka Prefecural Government also analyzed factories in Warashina and confirmed that radioactive levels exceeded regulatory values in five tea factories. With this result, the Shizuoka Prefectural Government called for shipment restraint and voluntary recall of the affected tea sources.

The provisional regulation values enforced by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan and the Food Sanitation Act of Japan are in table3.

Table1 Radioactivity Levels in Shizuoka Tea [as of June 28]

(Bq/kg)

Sampling district	Cesium-(134+137)				
	First Harvest			Second Harvest	
	Fresh leaves	Processed tea*2	Brewed tea*3	Fresh leaves	Crude tea
Izu	379 98	359	14 8.9	To be determined	To be determined
Oyama	120	128	12	To be determined	To be determined
Gotenba	101		5.9		
Numazu	44	255	4.6	33	119
Fujinomiya	105	349	5.7	46	181
Fuji	84	359	3.9	37	223
Shizuoka (Aoi-ku)	117	413 (Warashina)679	5.7	32	13
Shizuoka (Shimizu-ku)	139	368 (Ryogohchi)461	11	57	259
Shimada*1	N.A.	311	N.A.	6	174
Former Kanaya-cho	N.A.	385	N.A.	35	131
Fujieda	96	305	6.1	30	212
Kawanehoncho and former kawane-cho	62	350	4.3	29	106
Makinohara	90	272	6.9	52	138
Omaezaki	75 83	149	3.0	44	191
Kikugawa	111	184	4.3	34	170
Kakegawa	40	146	4.0	28	100
Fukuroi	22	141	1.6	21	74
Iwata	46	194	1.9	20	54
Mori	73	158	3.4	27	106
Hamamatsu	95	265	5.5	29	109

Measured results were analyzed at the Yokohama Quarantine Station and the Shizuoka Prefecture Environmental Radiation Monitoring Center using γ -ray spectrometer (Germanium semiconductor detector). Test results for Iodine-131 are omitted. N.A.: Not applicable

*1 Excluding the former Kanaya-cho and Kawane-cho

*2 Above processed teas are not blended and have a determined tea source location.

*3 Table2 Tests conditions are follows

Amount of processed tea	60g
Amount of water	2,580ml
Extracting temperature	90°C
Extracting time	60sec

Table3 The Provisional Regulation Values enforced by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan and the Food Sanitation Act of Japan. (Bq/kg)

Fresh tea leaves		Processed tea		Brewed tea*	
Cesium-(134+137)	Iodine-131	Cesium-(134+137)	Iodine-131	Cesium-(134+137)	Iodine-131
500	N.A.	500	N.A.	200	300

*There is no provisional regulation value for brewed tea, therefore, regulatory values for drinking water in accordance to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan is applied. N.A.: Not applicable

Announcement for Shizuoka Tea Consumers

Radioactive cesium of 679 Bq/kg, which is slightly above the provisional regulation of 500 Bq/kg enforced by the Food Sanitation Act of Japan, was detected in a portion of tea grown in the Warashina area of Shizuoka city. However, when brewed for drinking, the radioactive cesium level significantly drops (1/85) and therefore does not present any negative health influence. (This is based on research conducted by Shizuoka Tea Research Center.)

Table 6: Test results for radioactivity in Kikugawa city (Shizuoka Tea Research Center) (500 Bq/kg)

	Fresh tea leaves	Crude tea (A)	Brewed tea(B)	B/A
Cesium(134+137)	111	367	4.3	1/85
Provisional regulation value*	500	500	200	NA

*As there is no provisional regulation value for brewed tea, regulatory value for drinking water in accordance to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan is applied. NA: Not applicable

How to handle green tea leaves which exceeded provisional regulatory values

[Announcement from Shizuoka Prefectural Government Agriculture Promotion Division]

Tests conducted by the Shizuoka Prefectural Government confirmed that no harm is imposed on the surrounding areas of the stored or shipped packages of tea that exceeded provisional regulatory values.

Announcement regarding exported Shizuoka tea to France

The French DGCCRF authorities announced on June 17th that tea from Shizuoka was detected with radioactive cesium that exceeded EU regulations of 500 Bq/kg. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) identified on June 20th (Monday) that concerned tea was "Genmaicha" produced for exports. MAFF quickly amended this announcement the following day that the concerned tea was in actuality first harvest tea "Sencha".

Moreover, the Shizuoka Prefectural Government conducted tests for radioactivity on tea stored by exporting companies and found radioactive levels to exceed regulatory values. With this result, the government called for shipment restraint and voluntary recall of the exported teas. In addition, it was confirmed that brewed tea for drinking did not exceed provisional regulatory values and does not present negative health influence.