

Approach for the Establishment of the Standard Limits ◆ Grounds for the Standard Limits

Q. Why were the standard limits set based on the annual permissible dose of 1 mSv?

A. (i) They are in line with the international indicator based on scientific knowledge.

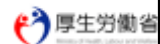
The Codex Alimentarius Commission, which establishes international specifications for foods, has set indicators so that the annual dose does not exceed 1 mSv.

Note) The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) considers that stricter requirements below 1 mSv/year would not achieve any significant additional dose reduction. Therefore, based on this, the Codex Alimentarius Commission specifies indicators.

(ii) They are intended to reduce radiation exposure as low as reasonably achievable.

Radiation monitoring surveys have shown considerable decreases over time in radioactivity concentrations measured in foods.

Prepared based on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's website, "Measures for Radioactive Materials in Foods"



The standard limits concerning radioactive materials in foods were set based on the annual permissible dose of 1 mSv, which is adopted as an indicator by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which establishes international specifications for foods. Originally, the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) publicized the idea that stricter requirements below 1 mSv/year would not achieve any significant additional dose reduction. Based on this idea, the Codex Alimentarius Commission specifies indicators.

Additionally, the standard limits are based on the principle of ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) (p.167 of Vol. 1, "Optimization of Radiological Protection"). Radiation monitoring surveys have shown considerable decreases in radioactivity concentrations measured in many of the food samples. Therefore, it was found that the reduction of the standard limit for radioactive cesium concentrations in general foods to 100 Bq/kg would not cause any problem for the dietary patterns of the Japanese people. (Related to p.61 of Vol. 2, "Approach for the Calculation of the Standard Limits (1/2)")

Included in this reference material on March 31, 2013
Updated on March 31, 2019