

FY2003 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law

“Synthetic detergents”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2003, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Synthetic detergents” to confirm their compliance with the quality labeling regulations for miscellaneous manufactured goods (hereinafter referred to as “labeling regulations”) under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law.

NITE purchased 10 sample detergents available in the market; 3 synthetic detergents for laundry, 3 for kitchens, 2 house/furniture cleaners and 2 bathroom cleaners.

Following results, 4 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations.

The noncompliance items included improper labeling for components (4 samples) and handling precautions (3 samples).

Details of the identified noncompliance items are as follows:

	Noncompliant item	# of samples	Total (*1)
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The product indicated improper names for surfactants ● The product labeled non-surfactants as surfactants ● The product used no designated terms for “type” or “system” of surfactants ● Product labeling used “type name” for additives comprising less than 10% of total content (*2) ● Product labeling used “function name” and “type name” for additives comprising less than 1% of total content (*2) ● The products displayed improper labeling manner for additive “type name”, such as a failure to put them in parentheses or to use designated terms, etc (*2) 	<p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(3)</p>	4
Handling Precautions	<p>The products failed to indicate that a user should take emergency measures and consult a doctor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● if the product is accidentally swallowed ● if the product is accidentally comes into contact with eyes 	<p>(3)</p> <p>(3)</p>	3

(*1) Each noncompliant item is counted cumulatively when a product has multiple noncompliant items.

(*2) The labeling regulations require the following for additives except phosphates:

For additives comprising 10% or more content, “name of function” followed by “name of type” in parentheses.

For additives comprising 1% or more content, “name of function”

Designated terms should be used for “name of type” where available

Labeling of additives in a manner not required by regulations might mislead consumers. For example, if the “name of type” is indicated for additives comprising less than 10% content, consumers might misinterpret this as

comprising 10% or more. In addition, “name of type” should be indicated in parentheses.

NITE presented the test results to noncompliant labelers and conducted hearings with them for their opinions and measures to be taken. The results of the hearings, together with the test results, were reported to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Based on the test results, METI has given administrative guidance to the relevant labelers.