

FY2004 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Toothbrushes”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2004, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Toothbrushes” 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 has purchased 15 sample toothbrushes of various bristle hardness available in the market; 6 brushes with “regular” bristles, 5 with “hard” and 4 with “soft” bristles.

These products are required to indicate materials used for handles and bristles, hardness of bristles, heat resistant temperatures, etc. Following results, 7 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations.

The noncompliance items included improper labeling for handle material (2 samples) and for bristle material (6 samples).

Details of the identified noncompliance items are as follows:

Particulars to be declared	Noncompliant item	Number of samples(*)
Handle material	The material used for the handle differed from the labeling.	2
Bristle material	The product used no designated terms for types of resin used.	6

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

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.