

Association for the Safety of Imported Food, Japan (ASIF)

(authorized by Environmental Health Bureau,
Ministry of Public Health and Welfare, Japan)

1. The Role of ASIF

ASIF was officially established in September 1992, with 80 Japanese companies engaged in food imports, by the support of Ministry of Public Health and Welfare. Over 80 percent of imported foods are dealt with by our member companies. ASIF helps member companies supply safe and healthy imported foods by examining the status of the import system. For example, the association makes advice on documents before importers file them to the quarantine stations at airports or harbors, or provides information on imported foods to its member companies and the public in cooperation with Ministry.

2. The objectives and business of ASIF

Objectives

The objectives of ASIF are to smooth and accelerate the process of food imports and to secure the safety of imported foods, then ASIF can satisfy the consumer needs and contribute to the reliability on food sanitation. ASIF is to establish a voluntary examination system on the safety of imported food, and proceed with training and education of the persons engaged in food imports.

Business

For realizing its objectives, ASIF conducts the following business:

- 1) Consultation on the safety assessment of the food imports
- 2) Establishing the voluntary investigation system on the safety of imported foods
- 3) Training and education for the persons engaged in assessment of the safety of imported foods
- 4) Information service on the safety of imported foods
- 5) Making up some system to accelerate the import procedure by cutting down the time to prepare documents to the quarantine stations
- 6) Consultation and PR activities to the consumer on the safety of imported foods
- 7) To proceed with research and collect information on the safety of imported foods, to exchange information with the related international bodies
- 8) Other business necessary to realize the objectives, for example, holding seminars on the safety of imported foods.

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