

Overview of Japan's Product Safety Acts

October 2021

Product Safety Division
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
Japan

Items

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- B) The Major Acts Protecting Consumers
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Division of Roles for Consumer Product Safety in Japan

Consumer Affairs Agency
(CAA)

Whole management of
Consumer Policies

Ministry of Economy, Trade and
Industry (METI)

Electrical products, Gas products,
General consumer products

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries (MAFF)

Foods, Drinks

Ministry of Health, Labour and
Welfare (MHLW)

Cosmetics, Dietary supplements,
Drugs

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

Automobiles, Motorcycles

The Major Acts Protecting Consumers

【General Policy】

- ◆ Basic Act on Consumer Policies (Act No. 78 of 1968) CAA
- ◆ Act on Promotion of Consumer Education (Act No. 61 of 2012) CAA

【Product Safety Acts and Labeling】









- ◆ Consumer Safety Act (Act No.50 of 2009) CAA
- ◆ Food Safety Basic Act (Act No. 48 of 2003) MAFF
- ◆ Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947) MAFF
- ◆ Act on Control of Household Products Containing Harmful Substances (Act No. 112 of 1973) MWHL
- ◆ **Consumer Product Safety Act** (Act No. 31 of 1973) METI
- ◆ **Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act** (Act No. 234 of 1961) METI
- ◆ Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations (Act No. 134 of 1962) CAA
- ◆ Household Goods Quality Labeling Act (Act No. 104 of 1962) CAA
- ◆ Food Labeling Act (Act No. 70 of 2013) , etc. MAFF

【Contracts and Others】

- ◆ Consumer Contract Act (Act No. 61 of 2000) CAA
- ◆ Act on Specified Commercial Transactions (Act No. 57 of 1976) CAA
- ◆ Product Liability Act (Act No. 85 of 1994) , etc. CAA

The Four Product Safety Acts (METI)

The Four Product Safety Acts implemented by METI aim to guarantee safety for consumers by preventing hazards caused by electrical appliances, gas appliances and general consumer products.

- **Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act (Denan Act)**
(457 products)  
- **Gas Business Act**
(8 products)  
- **Act on the Securing of Safety and the Optimization of Transaction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas**
(16 products)  
- **Consumer Product Safety Act**
(10 products)  

The Four Product Safety Acts (Outline)

- ◆ Encouraging self-declaration of conformity with regulations by suppliers (manufacturers or importers)

Pre-market regulation

- 4 (four) product safety acts
 - Electrical appliances and materials
 - Town gas equipment
 - LPG equipment
 - General consumer products



Post market measures

- Sampling Tests (purchasing)
- On-site inspections
- Collecting reports from Suppliers
- Taking measures for implementing product recalls and withdrawals, etc.

- ◆ Market surveillance and Serious Product Accidents Information

The Four Product Safety Acts (Points)

- ✓ The government (METI) **designates the products** with potential hazards.
- ✓ The manufacturers and the importers of these products **must notify METI** before starting manufacturing or importing.
- ✓ METI **obliges** the notifying manufacturers and the notifying importers to **comply with the technical requirements, “Technical Standards”, developed by the government.**
- ✓ This process is **“self confirmation”** by the notifying manufacturers and importers. The notifying manufacturers and the importers can affix the **○PS-mark** to products that comply with the standards.
- ✓ In addition to the self confirmation procedure, products which require the **◇PS-mark** **are subject to technical examination by registered testing bodies** (laboratories). Cf., ISO/IEC 17065 (Conformity assessment)
- ✓ The products designated in the Act are prohibited for sale without “PS mark” and the name of the notifying manufacturers/importers.

Regulated Electrical Products

<Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act>

◆ Electrical Appliances and Materials (457 items)

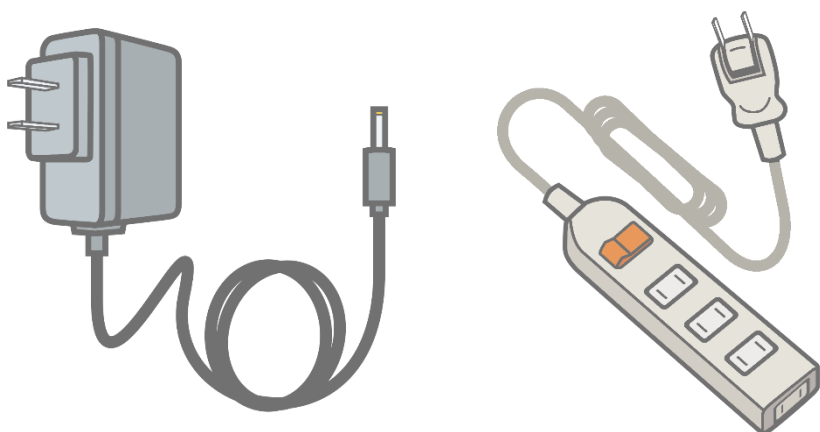


Specified (116 items)
(Category A)

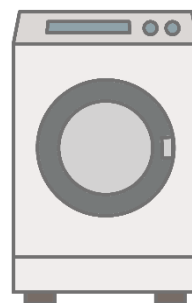


Non-Specified (341 items)
(Category B)

AC/DC Power Supply Units (AC Adaptors),
Extension Power Supply Cords,
Electric heating-type toys, Portable generators, etc.



Electric refrigerators, Electric air conditioners,
Electric hot-air heaters, Electric washing machines,
Electric room fans, circulation fans,
Electric vacuum cleaners, Television receivers,
Furniture with socket outlets,
LED-lamps, LED lighting fixtures,
Lithium-ion batteries, etc.



The list of all items

Specified 116 items: https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/consumer/pse/images/list_01.pdf

Non-Specified 341 items: https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/consumer/pse/images/list_02.pdf

Regulated Gas Products

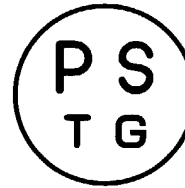
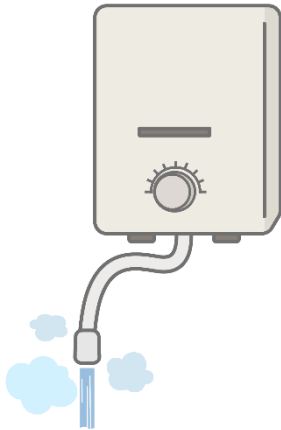
<Gas Business Act>

◆ Gas Appliances (8 items)



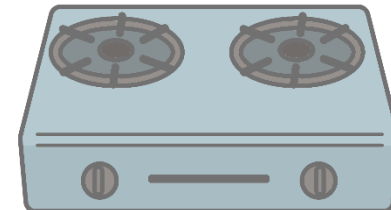
Specified (4 items)
(Category A)

- (1) Gas water heaters (open flue type)
- (2) Gas space heaters (open flue type)
- (3) Bath water heaters with gas burners (open flue type)
- (4) Gas burners for bath water heaters



Non-Specified (4 items)
(Category B)

- (1) Gas water heaters (unvented type, direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (2) Gas space heaters (unvented type, direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (3) Bath water heaters with gas burners (direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (4) Gas cooking stoves



Regulated LPG Products

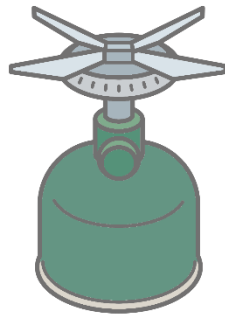
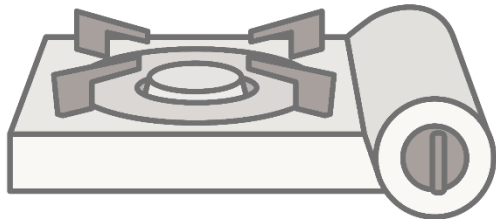
<Act on the Securing of Safety and the Optimization of Transaction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas>

◆ Liquefied Petroleum Gas Appliances (16 items)



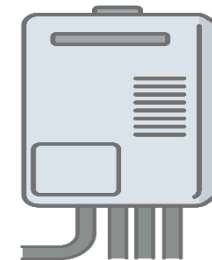
Specified (7 items)
(Category A)

- (1) LP gas water heaters (open flue type)
- (2) LP gas space heaters (open flue type)
- (3) Bath water heaters with LP gas burners (open flue type)
- (4) Heating bodies of bath tubs
- (5) LP gas burners for bath water heaters
- (6) LP gas cartridge cooking stoves
- (7) LP gas valves



Non-Specified (9 items)
(Category B)

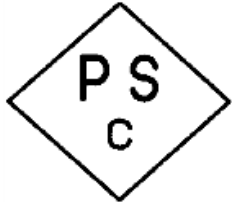
- (1) LP gas water heaters (unvented type, direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (2) LP gas space heaters (unvented type, direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (3) Bath water heaters with LP gas burners (direct vent type, outdoor type)
- (4) LP gas cooking stoves
- (5) Regulators
- (6) High-pressure hoses
- (7) Low-pressure hoses
- (8) Earthquake-proof auto LP gas circuit breakers
- (9) LP gas leak alarms



Regulated Consumer Products

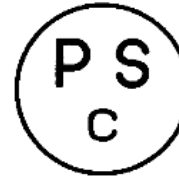
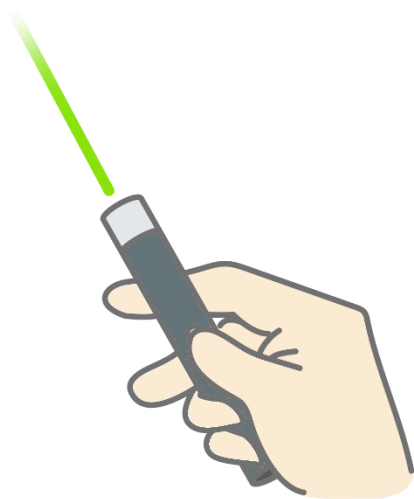
<Consumer Product Safety Act >

◆ Specified Consumer Products (10 items)



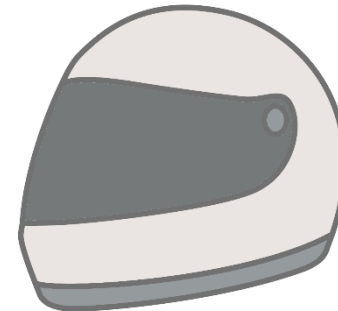
Special Specified (4 items)
(Category A)

- (1) Baby beds
- (2) Portable laser application devices
- (3) Hot water circulators for baths
- (4) Lighters and utility lighters



Other Specified (6 items)
(Category B)

- (1) Autoclaves and pressure cookers for household use
- (2) Riding helmets (for two-wheeled motor vehicles, motorized bicycles)
- (3) Climbing ropes
- (4) Oil water heaters
- (5) Oil bath boilers
- (6) Oil heaters / stoves



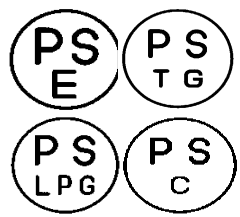
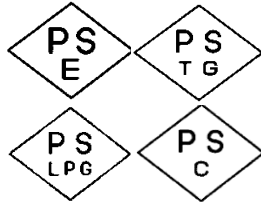
Procedures of the Four PS Acts (for Manufacturers and Importers)

● The Government (METI) specified items and stipulated technical regulations (criteria)



Notification of business to METI

Compliance with Technical requirements



Third Party Conformity Assessment

Registered Conformity Assessment Bodies

Self - Conformation Test

✓ Preserving the inspection records (record keeping)

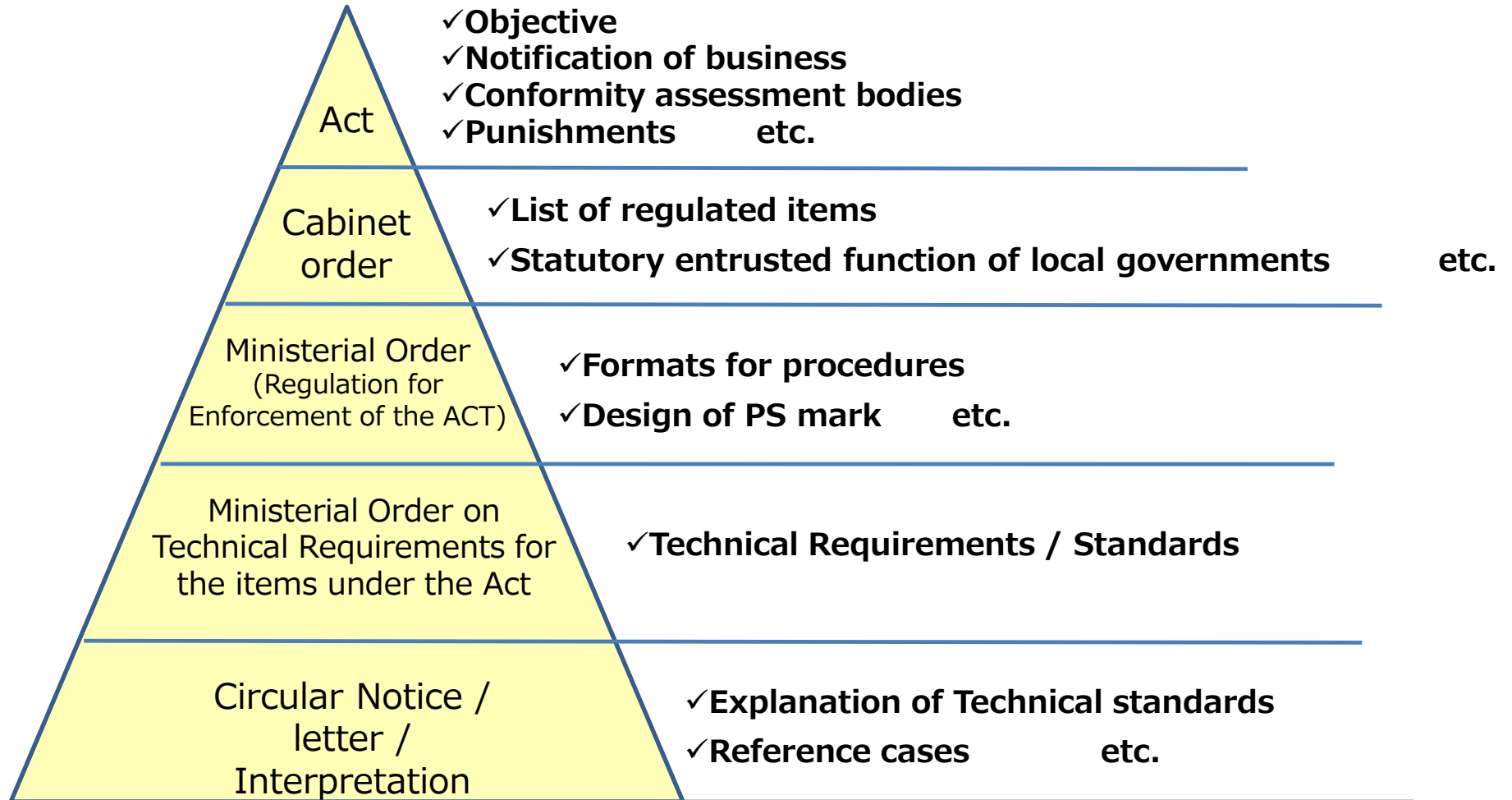
"PS Mark" Affixed

✓ Only notifying manufacturers and notifying importers can affix PS mark to the products.

Sale

The products designated in the Acts are prohibited for sale in Japan without "PS mark" and the name of the notifying manufacturers/importers.

[Reference] Basic Legal Structure of the Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Acts



Responding to Non-Compliant Cases (Market surveillance)

- METI purchases products on the market for sampling tests in order to confirm compliance status such as technical requirements stipulated in the Product Safety Acts.
- METI also identifies cases of violations by conducting on-site inspections and receiving information from the general public.
- Business operators are informed of products that have been confirmed as non-compliant and METI provides instructions for improvement.
- If a manufacturer or importer violates the standard-compliance obligations, METI can order them to take necessary measures to improve their work procedures. (Improvement Order)

Serious Product Accident Reporting and Disclosure System

Serious product accidents

* Serious Product Accident*

- (a) death, (b) serious/fatal injury or disease for which treatment requires no less than 30 days,
- (c) fire,
- (d) carbon monoxide poisoning,
- (e) physical disability/ after effects of injury

Manufacturers and importers have to report the accidents to the Government (CAA) within ten days

The name & type of the product, a detailed account of the accident, the quantity of applicable products etc.

【Consumer Product Safety Act, Article 35】



* Sellers must inform manufacturers and importers of the accidents.

Publication of accidents by the Government (CAA)

CAA releases accident outlines twice a week for the general public and related industries.



【Consumer Product Safety Act, Article 36】

Disclosure of accident information

◆ METI manages and endorses the counter measures of businesses based on the investigation results

◆ NITE*: Investigates/analyzes the Causes of Accidents
*NITE : National Institute of Technology and Evaluation

Product Recall Information

Japan All information is updated frequently.

CAA[Recall Information] (only in Japanese) <http://www.recall.caa.go.jp/>

METI[Recall Information] (only in Japanese) http://www.meti.go.jp/product_safety/recall/

NITE[Product Accident & Recall Information] (only in Japanese) <http://www.nite.go.jp/jiko/jikojohou/>

Accident information collection system (for business operators and local governments),
Latest accident information (including Accident Search)
and Recall information (including Recall Search)

【Useful site (in English)】

OECD[Global Recalls Portal]

◆OECD “Global Recalls Portal” brings together information on global product recalls (including Japan).

<https://globalrecalls.oecd.org/#/>

U.S. CPSC [Recall Lists] <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

European Commission [Safety Gate]

– Weekly Reports/ Search :

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=main.listNotifications