

## Japan: Product Safety Profile



### Legislative framework

In Japan, Consumer Product Safety Act which is administrated by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) gives a framework for collecting and publishing information of product accidents.

METI designates products which are considered to have higher possibilities of causing hazards respectively as positive lists and sets technical requirements on them under Consumer Product Safety Act and other regulation acts including Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act, Gas Business Act and Act on the Securing of Safety and the Optimization of Transaction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (hereafter referred to as “LP Gas Act”).

Web references:

- Consumer Product Safety Act (Collection and Publication of Product Accident Reports, only in Japanese):  
[http://www.meti.go.jp/product\\_safety/producer/point/04-1.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/product_safety/producer/point/04-1.html)
- Consumer Product Safety Act (Technical Requirements on Designated Products, only in Japanese):  
<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/consumer/seian/shouan/index.htm?PHPSESSID=e7aa1>
- Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act:  
<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/consumer/pse/index.html>
- Gas Business Act(Only in Japanese):  
<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/consumer/seian/gasji/>
- LP Gas Act(Only in Japanese): <http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/consumer/seian/ekiseki/>

### How are the rules for product requirements set?

Under Consumer Product Safety Act, Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act, Gas Business Act and LP Gas Act, METI designates products which are considered to have higher possibilities of causing hazards as positive lists and sets technical requirements respectively on them.

Manufacturers and importers are obliged to confirm their products to be conformable to the technical requirements (as well as to conduct self-inspections) and affix prescribed labels (PS marks) on them as well as certifications of their conformity.

As for “Specified Products” which are considered to have especially higher risks, manufacturers and importers are obliged to undergo conformity assessment tests conducted by conformity assessment bodies registered with the government.

In 2014, as for electrical appliances and materials, METI revised the technical requirements from “specification-based” descriptions where the government defines detailed specifications of dimensions, shapes and materials etc. of every item to “performance-based” descriptions where the government only defines essential safety performances.

The similar revisions will be conducted for City Gas and LP Gas equipment and appliances in early 2016.

Web references: (see legislative framework section).

### **How are goods prohibited from sale for safety reasons?**

As for Consumer Product Safety Act, under certain conditions including cases where serious product accidents have occurred due to defects in the consumer products or where serious danger has occurred to the lives or bodies of consumers or the occurrence of such danger is considered to be imminent, the competent minister may order manufacturers and importers to recall the consumer products and to otherwise take measures necessary to prevent the occurrence and increase of serious danger to the lives or bodies of consumers.

Additionally, as for Consumer Product Safety Act, Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act, Gas Business Act and LP Gas Act, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry may order manufacturers and importers to collect the consumer products or to take any other necessary measures to prevent the spreading of the hazards or interference caused by the products. Also, under certain conditions where manufacturers and importers violate technical requirements or other necessary regulations to be preserved, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry may prohibit manufacturers and importers from affixing labels (PS marks) to their products, which substantively represents prohibition of sales.

Web reference:

- [http://www.meti.go.jp/product\\_safety/producer/system/06.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/product_safety/producer/system/06.html) (only in Japanese)

### **Are there notification requirements?**

Manufacturers and importers of designated products under Consumer product Safety Act, Electrical Appliances and Materials Safety Act, Gas Business Act and LP Gas Act shall notify the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of their names and classifications of their products.

Also, under Consumer Product Safety Act, manufacturers and importers of consumer products who are responsible for consumer products distributed in Japan are obliged to report to the government (Consumer Affairs Agency) within 10 days when they come to know serious product accidents have occurred with their consumer products. When sellers come to know the fact, they are required to notify manufacturers and importers.

Web references:

- Notifications of Businesses (only in Japanese) :  
[http://www.meti.go.jp/product\\_safety/producer/system/02.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/product_safety/producer/system/02.html)
- Reports of Serious Product Accidents (only in Japanese) :  
[http://www.meti.go.jp/product\\_safety/producer/point/04-1.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/product_safety/producer/point/04-1.html)