

September 2, 2010

## Establishment of the Tentative Positive List of Chemical Substances in Paper and Paperboard Products for Food Contact Use

The Japan Paper Association (JPA) announces that it will establish its voluntary positive list of chemicals in paper and paperboard products for food contact use, in order to ensure higher level of food safety, in response to increasing public awareness of harmful chemical substances and international movement toward control of the substances.

### Background

JPA established its “Voluntary Standard of Paper and Paperboard Intended for the Use for Food Contact” in May 2007 in order to strengthen Health risk management of paper and paperboard products used for food contact containers and packages, which obliges its member companies to follow the voluntary standards in addition to the standards set by Food Sanitation Act. The Voluntary Standard includes the limit for elution of heavy metal substances and “the negative list”, the list of chemical substances shall not be used in manufacturing paper and paperboard products for food contacts.

Furthermore, JPA developed the information retrieval system for chemical substances “JPA-ChemiNet” which is an open database among registered members. Through the ChemiNet, JPA has implemented risk management of chemicals with updating the Negative List when related regulations are revised. Also, JPA has periodically implemented sampling check on boxboard, a paper grade produced mainly from recovered paper, for monitoring if chemicals contamination meets the standard.

### Change in ChemiNet system with establishment of the Positive List

#### 1) Existing system

Registered members can check if a specific chemical substance is included in the Negative List through the ChemiNet. However, the ChemiNet has a problem that chemical suppliers cannot check if their products are used in the manufacturing of paper and paperboard products for food contacts.

## 2) New system

Tentative positive list will include all the chemicals used in manufacturing paper and paperboard for food contacts. However, some chemicals may be unlisted on the positive list established in the U.S and Europe, and may not have undergone risk assessment. In that context, the tentative list is not disclosed in principle until discussion with relevant government ministries and agencies is finished.

Procedure of registering chemical substances for the tentative positive list is the following:

1. Paper manufacturers shall notify chemical suppliers of the products used for manufacturing paper and paperboard for food contacts.
2. If chemical suppliers are members of the ChemiNet, they shall register the composition of the products for the Positive List.
3. If the chemical suppliers are nonmembers of the ChemiNet, they shall notify paper manufacturers of the composition of the products, and manufacturers shall register them for the List. In case that the suppliers refuse to disclose the composition of the products, the products cannot be registered for the List.

If manufacturers would like to continue to use the chemical products cannot be registered, they have to ensure the safety of the products through risk assessment.

New system will be completed at the end of 2010.