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QUALITY CONTROL REGULATIONS REGARDING  
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IN JAPAN <sup>1/</sup>

by

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The technical revolution has been accompanied by a sudden, rapid increase in the number of products made from new materials or possessing new structures. There has also been a rise in consumer consciousness, leading to the current strong demands for guarantees of safety and durability in products. Reflecting these developments, the regulations on product quality in Japan have become complex and wide ranging. The most desirable course is basically for individual industries to conduct conscientious checks of their own products, and in fact much effort is being exerted in such attempts, but from the standpoint of users and consumers, this is not always enough.

To meet the requirements, the Government has enacted the necessary legislation and compiled concrete manuals dealing with quality regulations and has required manufacturers and dealers to observe these measures, at the same time conducting constant checks of the state of quality control. In addition, the Government is also using the method of

making recommendations to industrial groups and is having them voluntarily apply the quality regulations.

### **Categories of Quality Regulations**

#### **I. Legislative Regulations**

**A. Products for which the Government establishes and publishes product categories, standards, inspection methods, form of labeling, and inspection agencies, conducts inspections of products at the manufacturers at the time of shipping, provides label indications for lines of products passing inspections, and licenses sales.**

#### **Examples:**

**Consumer Product Safety Law (1973)**

**Export Inspection Law (1957)**

**Law concerning the Establishment of the Safety of  
and Appropriate Dealings in Liquefied Petroleum  
Gas (L.P.G. Law, 1967)**

**Gas Enterprise Act (1954)**

**B. Items for which the Government inspects the production facilities and inspection facilities of manufacturers and provides national registration of facilities which meet requirements, conducting pro forma inspections of products themselves and then entrusting long-term inspection and labeling to manufacturers for products which pass the inspections.**

**Examples:**

Safety Act on Electric Equipment (1961)

Measurement Act (1951)

L.P.G. Law

Gas Enterprise Act

**C. Products for which notification to and licensing by the Government are required for manufacture or export.**

**Example:**

Law concerning Regulations for Inspection, Production, Etc., of Chemical Products (1973)

**D. Products for which the Government establishes and publishes product categories and items which must be listed on labels and requires dealers to observe the labeling requirements.**

**Examples:**

Household Goods Labeling Law (1962)

High-Pressured Gas Control Act (1951)

**E. Products for which the Government establishes and publishes quality standards, requiring manufacturers to observe these standards.**

**Examples:**

High-Pressured Gas Control Act

Law concerning Regulations for Household Goods Containing Toxic Substances (1973)

Food Sanitation Law (1947)

**F. Products for which the Government establishes production standards in order to assure standardization, and for which the Government conducts inspection of factories and authorizes labeling at manufacturers' request.**

**Example:**

**Industrial Standard Act**

**II. Nonlegislative Regulations**

**A. Products for which the Government has established a system authorizing use of a special mark.**

**Examples:**

**Good Design Product Designation System (G Mark)**

**Reagent Labeling Authorization System (Benzene Mark)**

**Textile Product Quality Comprehensive Inspection System (Q Mark)**

**B. Products for which industrial groups voluntarily conduct formulation of quality and labeling regulations with Government guidance.**

**Examples:**

**Product Safety Association (SG Mark)**

**Japan Toy Manufacturers' Federation (ST Mark)**

**Japan Pottery Manufacturers' Federation (S Mark)**

**Japan Enamelware Manufacturers' Federation (S Mark)**

**All Japan Federation of Athletic Equipment Industry Organisations (S Mark)**

In each of the above cases, the organization establishes safety standards, conducts inspections of each type of product of member companies through a specific inspection agency, and awards permission to use the various marks in labeling.

C. Products for which there exist contracts for inspection of export goods corresponding to the quality regulation systems in foreign countries.

Contractee

Products

UL (Underwriter's  
Laboratories)

Electrical appliances

CSA (Canadian Standard  
Association)

" "

AAMVA (American Association  
of Motor Vehicle Administra-  
tors)

Automobiles

ADR (Australian Design Rule)

Automobiles

**Effectiveness of Quality Regulations**

As described above, a variety of product quality regulations are in effect in Japan, and they are contributing greatly to the maintenance and elevation of the reputation of Japanese goods abroad and to the promotion of Japanese exports. Domestically, these are proving fully effective in standardization of basic materials necessary to production,



parts, and the like, and in guaranteeing to consumers the safety, durability, and functionability of products.

#### Consumer Protection

In accordance with the goals of the Consumer Protection Law (1968) Consumer Centers have been established in approximately 110 locations in prefectures and cities throughout Japan, and consumers can use these centers at will at any time to receive advice or to make complaints. In the event there is a need to discover the cause of product defects involved in complaints, tests are conducted and depending on the results, the Government may make official recommendations that the products be recalled or improved.

#### Inspection Agencies

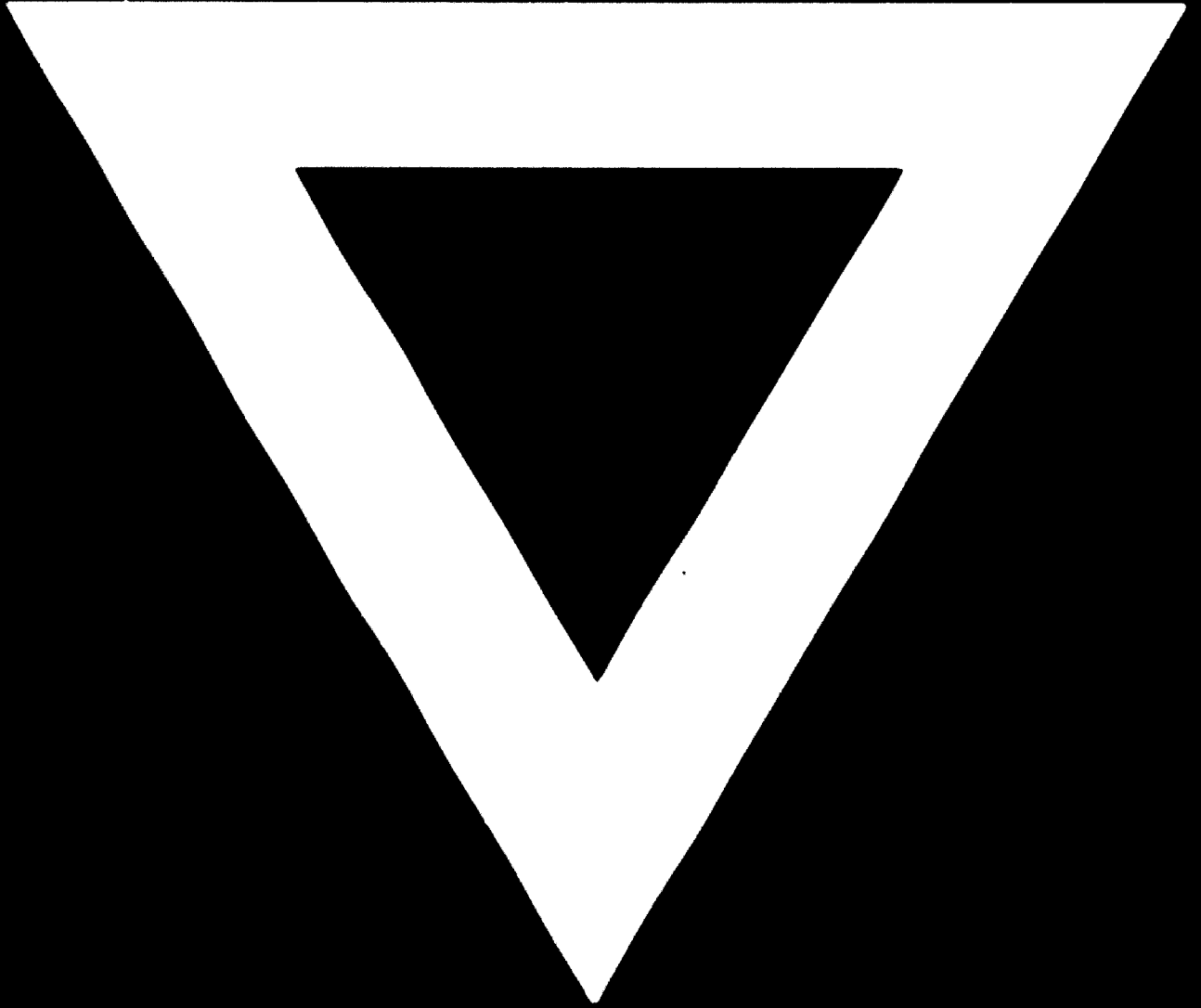
In order to conduct tests and inspections needed for the above-mentioned quality regulations for various products and for consumer protection, some 11 national inspection agencies and 30 private inspection agencies have been established and are now in operation.

#### Method of Government Inspection

In order to inspect the degree to which the various laws are being observed, the Government carries out spot inspections as necessary in factories and stores, purchases

and tests goods circulating on the public market for quality and labeling, and issues directives or recommendations for recall or improvement of goods which prove defective.





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