

FY2002 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Thermos bottles”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2002, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Thermos bottles” to confirm their compliance with the quality labeling regulations for miscellaneous manufactured goods (hereinafter referred to as “labeling regulations”) under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law.

NITE purchased 15 sample thermos bottles available in the market; 4 table-use bottles made of glass and 11 portable bottles made of stainless steel. Of the 15 sample products, 4 are made in Japan and 11 are imported.

Following results, 12 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations.

The noncompliant labeling included; the measured “heat insulation capacity”, which was lower than the indicated value in 3 samples, and a shortfall in “maximum capacity” as labeled, which was observed in 2 samples, with the shortfall exceeding the acceptable range ($\pm 5\%$) allowed by the labeling regulations.

The most incidences of noncompliance were observed in labeling for materials. For example, no labeling for materials of caps, use of terms other than the designated term for “stainless steel” and incorrect labeling for an inner bottle made from “soda-lime glass”, which was labeled “borosilicate glass.”

Details of the identified noncompliance items are as follows:

Noncompliant item	Number of samples(*)
The product used no designated terms for name of product	5
A lack of capacity exceeding the acceptable range of error ($\pm 5\%$)	2
Measured heat insulation capacity was less than the labeled value	3
Kind of material (unlabeled substance, incorrect labeling)	9
Missing items in “Handling precautions”	2
Improper labeling for labeler’s information	2

(*) Each noncompliant item is counted cumulatively when a product has multiple noncompliant items.

NITE presented the test results to noncompliant labelers and conducted hearings with them for their opinions and measures to be taken. The results of the hearings, together with the test results, were reported to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Based on the test results, METI has given administrative guidance to the relevant labelers.