

FY2002 Market Monitoring Test Results

“Sample Purchase Tests implemented by Consumer Affairs Centers” with the technical support of NITE

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

NITE has established the system of “Support for Consumer Affairs Centers’ product testing” to ensure the quality and safety of products as well as contributing to enhance the test techniques of Consumer Affairs Centers. Brief summaries of the tests implemented by various centers in FY2002 are shown below.

For further information on the test results, please contact the respective centers.

Summer Trousers for men <Ibaragi Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center>

Quality and capability for sweating and washing are considered to be important elements in clothing items for summer. The Ibaragi Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center has purchased summer trousers of various textiles for men, and conducted tests to confirm quality performance such as color fastness to sweating and washing. Results showed some sample products to have insufficient color fastness to sweating and friction.

Low-priced Underwear <Nagasaki Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center>

Various types of low-priced underwear are available in the market. The Nagasaki Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center purchased various samples of low-priced underwear (T shirts, tank tops, shorts, socks, etc.) and implemented tests to check their quality and performance (e.g. labeling, color fastness) and to confirm that the free formaldehyde content was within safe limits.

No sample products showed problems with free formaldehyde content. In checking quality and performance, some products were badly sewn or had insufficient color fastness.

Also, there were samples for which labeling for composition of fibers was noncompliant with the provisions required by the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has given administrative guidance to the relevant labelers.

Study on Microwaves <Gunma Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center>

Nowadays, microwaves are commonly used in most households. The Gunma Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center has studied the risk from misuse, safe and good use of microwaves as well as implementing various product use tests. Based on the test results, the center provided guidance for safe and smart use of these products to consumers.

Study on washing clothes in water with Domestic Cleaning Detergents

<Kyoto Prefectural Consumer Life and Science Center>

There are some “Home cleaning detergents” that claim they can be used to wash, at home in cold water, even those garments labeled “not to be washed in water” (or “dry-cleaning”). There are also some washing machines with “dry” cycle features available in the market.

The Center has studied whether these garments showed any problems when being washed in water either by hand or by the “dry” cycle of a washing machine using these “home cleaning detergents”. The tests revealed that these garments were adequately washable when the instructions for the detergents and the washing machine were followed.

The sample garments for the test were; men’s trouser (100% wool), women’s sweater (100% wool) and women’s blouse (95% cotton, 5% polyester).