

FY2006 Market Monitoring Test Results

“Sample Purchase Tests implemented by Consumer Affairs Centers” with the 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 consumer affairs centers in FY2006 are shown below. The centers organize the necessary information for consumers, covering purchasing and the safe use of the consumer products.

For further information on the test results, please contact the respective centers or go to their web sites.

Superheated steam oven

<Hokkaido Consumer Affairs Center>

A new type of oven, utilizing steam superheated to approximately 300 degrees Celsius in addition to conventional microwave oven functions, is available in the market. Manufactured by various companies, they have been promoted as healthier cooking devices in comparison to conventional non-steam ovens due to their ability to reduce excess fats and salts through a combination of high steam temperatures and high heating power. The center has implemented tests to confirm the safety of these ovens as well as their efficiency in reducing fats and salts.

Results showed no increased temperature in the operating parts including dials, START buttons and handles during and after cooking. However all the sample products displayed rises of temperature at the exhaust outlets and front and top surfaces.

Cotton Product Transformation caused by washing

<Kyoto Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center>

The number of complaints about washing remains high. The causes vary; problems of material or dyeing, conditions of use (e.g. laundry) or storage by consumers, problems of commercial cleaning, etc. Kyoto Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center has implemented a test to explore the best way for domestic laundry to keep color, texture and accessories attached to clothes.

The tested 100% cotton samples (sweatshirt, cut & sewn etc.) shrunk in sizes across the chest and length of the back after 10 domestic laundry washes regardless of detergent type or use of cleaning net.

Steam Iron

<Fukuoka Consumer Affairs Center>

Steam irons, which come in a variety of prices, are one of the everyday home electric appliances that can be considered a burn injury/ fire hazard due to the high temperatures during use. In view of this, the Fukuoka Consumer Affairs Center has conducted tests to confirm the performance, safety and usability of steam irons.

All samples succeeded in holding water for steam in the tank even when the irons were moved back and forth intensively or tipped over. However, in some cases, when instructions were ignored and the water tank was not emptied after use, the irons spat out water drops at the start of steaming or the first time a steam jet was used.