



Ministry of Food and
Drug Safety

Safety Control Policy for Imported Foods in Korea

Oct. 27. 2021

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MFDS : Competent Authority

Location

Osong Health Technology Administration Complex,
187 Osonsaengmyeong2-ro, Osong-eup,
Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do,
Korea 28159



History

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

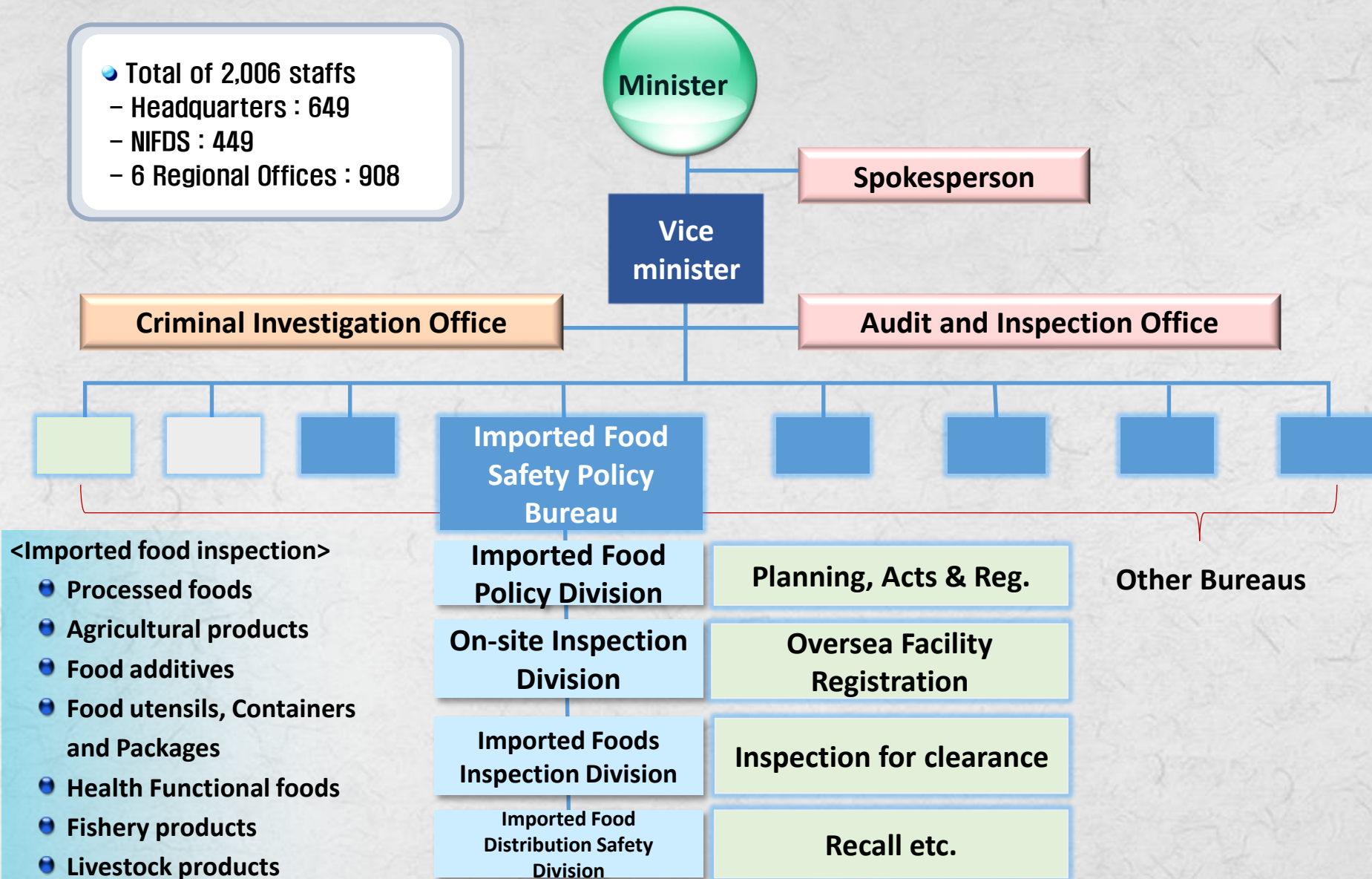
- ✓ Promoted to a ministerial level in March, 2013
- ✓ Fully exercise the authority prescribed in the relevant Acts
- ✓ Work as a command center of food safety control (which includes meat, fishery products and others)

Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau

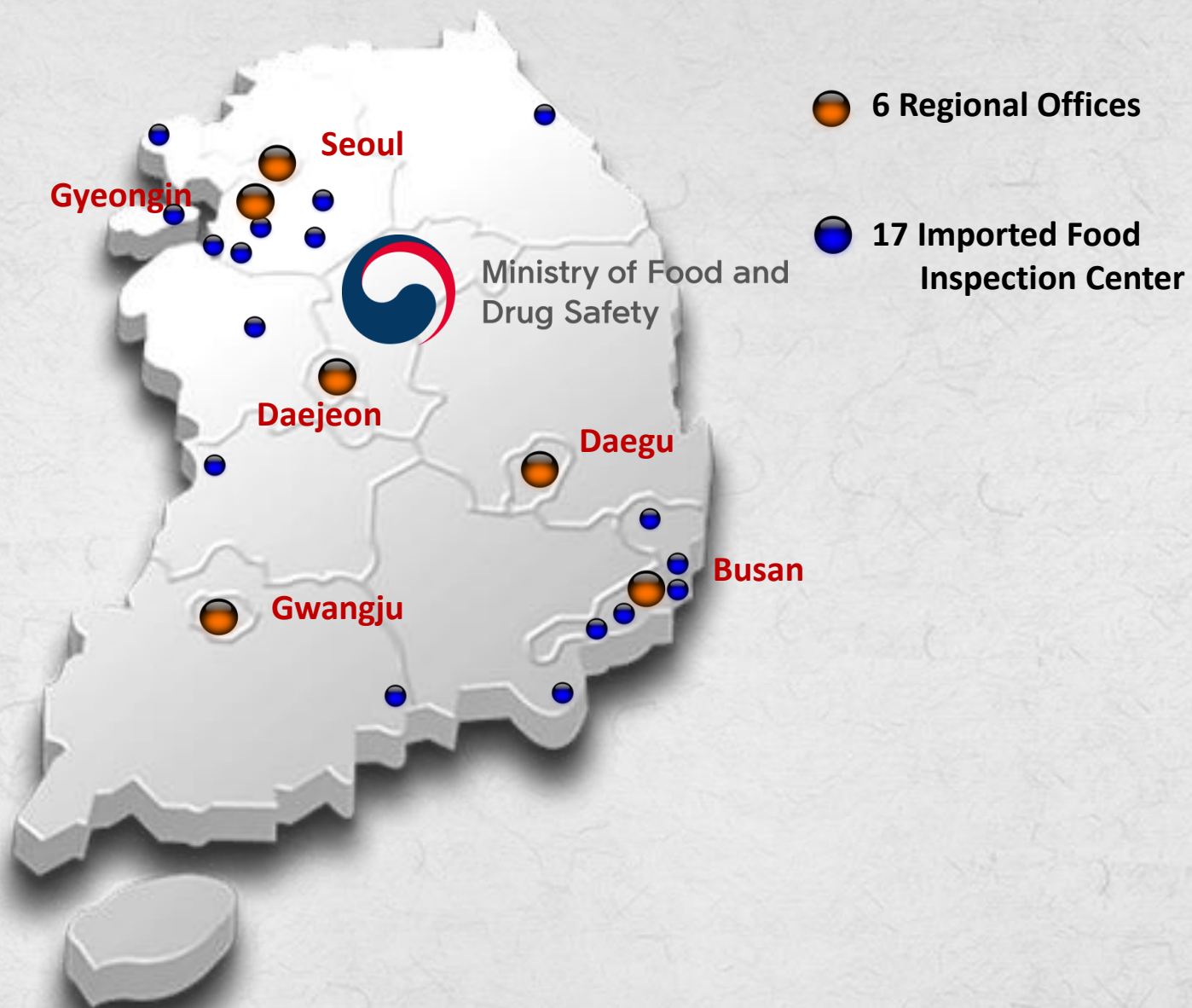
- ✓ Established in March 2017

Organization

- Total of 2,006 staffs
 - Headquarters : 649
 - NIFDS : 449
 - 6 Regional Offices : 908



MFDS & Regional Offices



Import Declaration Status

Items for import declaration

- **Food** : all kinds of foods and beverages(except for food and beverage taken as medicine)
- Including Agricultural products, Fishery products
- **Food Additives** : materials added to or mixed with foods or materials used for wetting foods in the process of manufacturing, processing or preserving
- **Food utensils, containers and packages** : machines or utensils used for eating or containing food, which come into direct contact with foods or food additives
- **Health Functional Food** : food that are manufactured or processed in order to supplement nutrients that may be deficient in daily meal or to provide functional ingredients useful for human body
- **Livestock products** : meat, packaged meat, raw milk, shell egg, processed meat products, dairy products and processed egg products

Import declaration status by year

- The number of imports are increasing each year, and Korea import food products from about 170 countries

Year	Case	Weight (thousand ton)	Amount (million dollars)	Country	Rejection
2016	625,443	17,261	23,438	170	1,250 (0.20)
2017	672,278	18,296	24,972	167	1,279 (0.19)
2018	728,114	18,554	27,337	166	1,478 (0.20)
2019	738,082	18,441	27,502	169	1,296 (0.18)
2020	750,933	18,333	27,343	167	1,082 (0.14)

Import declaration status by items

<in 2020, unit : thousand ton, million dollars>

Items	Total		
	Case	Weight	Amount
Total	750,993	18,333	27,343
Processed food	286,222	6,140	7,385
Food Additives	40,082	417	1,043
Food utensils, containers and packages	138,498	389	2,186
Health Functional Food	13,809	20	912
Livestock products	106,302	1,511	6,519
Agricultural products	70,193	8,813	5,144
Fishery products	95,887	1,043	4,153

Import declaration status by Asean country

- In terms of standard weight, Vietnam ranked at 1th
- In terms of standard amount, Vietnam ranked at 1th

<in 2020, unit : thousand ton>

Rank	Country	weight
1	Vietnam	610
2	Thailand	522
3	Philippines	375
4	Malaysia	305
5	Indonesia	162
6	Singapore	31
7	Myanmar	22
8	Cambodia	3
9	Laos	1
10	Brunei	-

<in 2020, unit : million dollars>

Rank	Country	amount
1	Vietnam	1,274
2	Thailand	779
3	Malaysia	409
4	Philippines	360
5	Indonesia	286
6	Singapore	145
7	Myanmar	39
8	Cambodia	4
9	Laos	3
10	Brunei	-

* Main import item : Casava, Food materials(crude oil), sugar, banana, etc

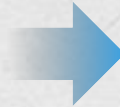
Safety Management System For Imported Food

Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control

Integration of laws regarding imported food safety control(2016)

Past (4 different laws)

- ✓ Food Sanitation Act
- ✓ Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act
- ✓ Functional Health Foods Act
- ✓ Act on the Prevention of Contagious Animal Diseases



Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control

- ✓ Enhance consistency and efficiency in controlling the safety of imported food
- ✓ Improve convenience in handling civil complaints

Changes in the imported food safety control system

Past

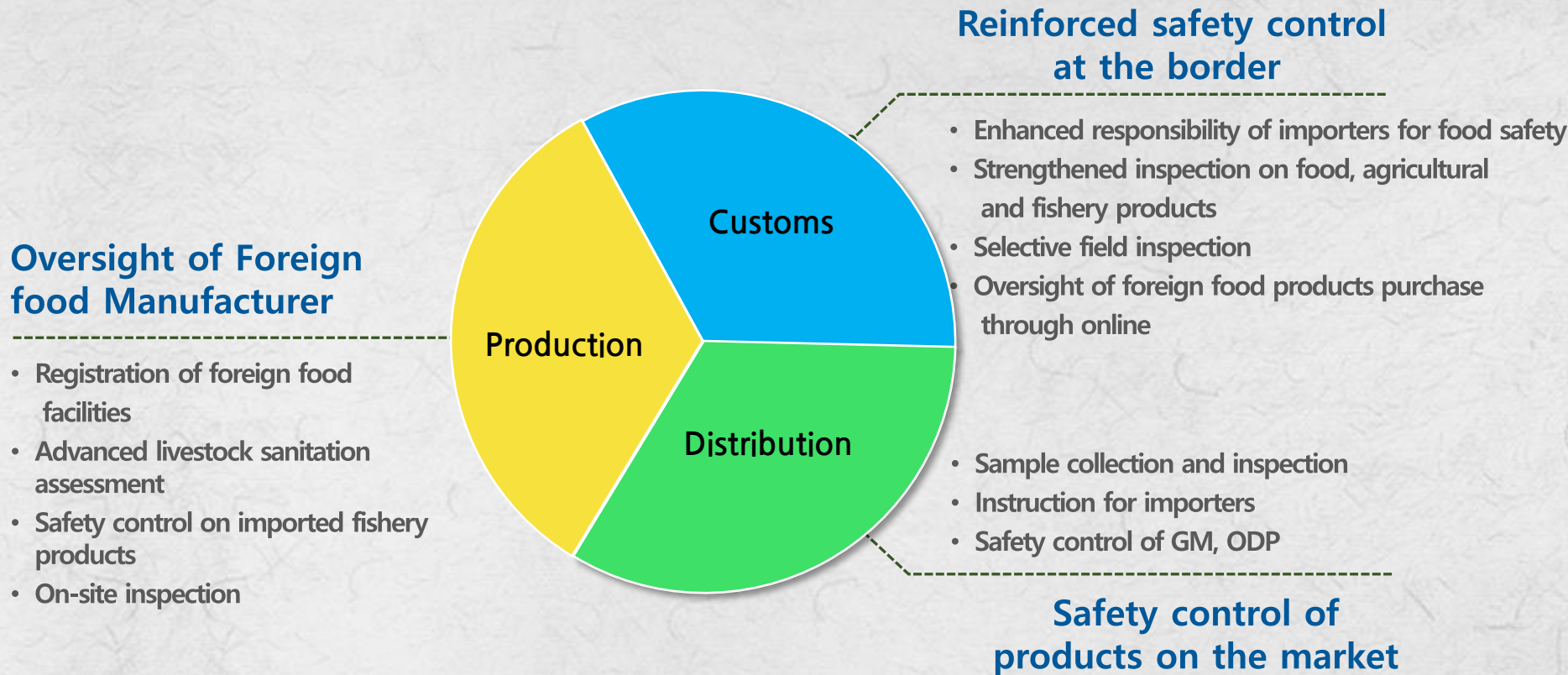
- ✓ Focused on border inspections



Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control

- ✓ Focused on safety inspections from production to distribution

Safety control for the entire cycle from importation to distribution

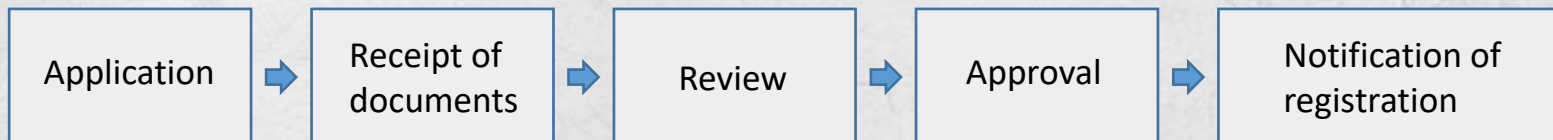


Safety control applied prior to importation

Registration of foreign food facilities

1. (When) The registration of a foreign food facility to MFDS must be completed before import declaration.
2. (Who) Importers or business operators of foreign food facilities.
3. (How to) Submit online application through the Imported food Information Maru(<https://impfood.mfds.go.kr>)
 - * Documents for submission : Either a 'letter of consent for registration' or an official government document proving business registration(in English)
4. (Period of validity) 2 years

<Registration procedure>



* Processing period : 3 days

Safety control applied prior to importation

Import sanitation assessment system for livestock products

- The MFDS may conduct assessments on the actual conditions of livestock products sanitary control of the exporting country for each livestock product
 - ✓ Where requested to permit the importation from an exporting country
 - ✓ Where deemed necessary to reassess it according to changes in international standards, etc.
- Livestock products shall be imported from countries for which the MFDS has determined and published the requirements for import sanitation
 - ✓ Where filing an import declaration, a sanitary certificate issued by an exporting country shall be attached according to the form on which it has consulted with the MFDS

Safety control applied prior to importation

6 steps of import sanitation assessment for livestock products



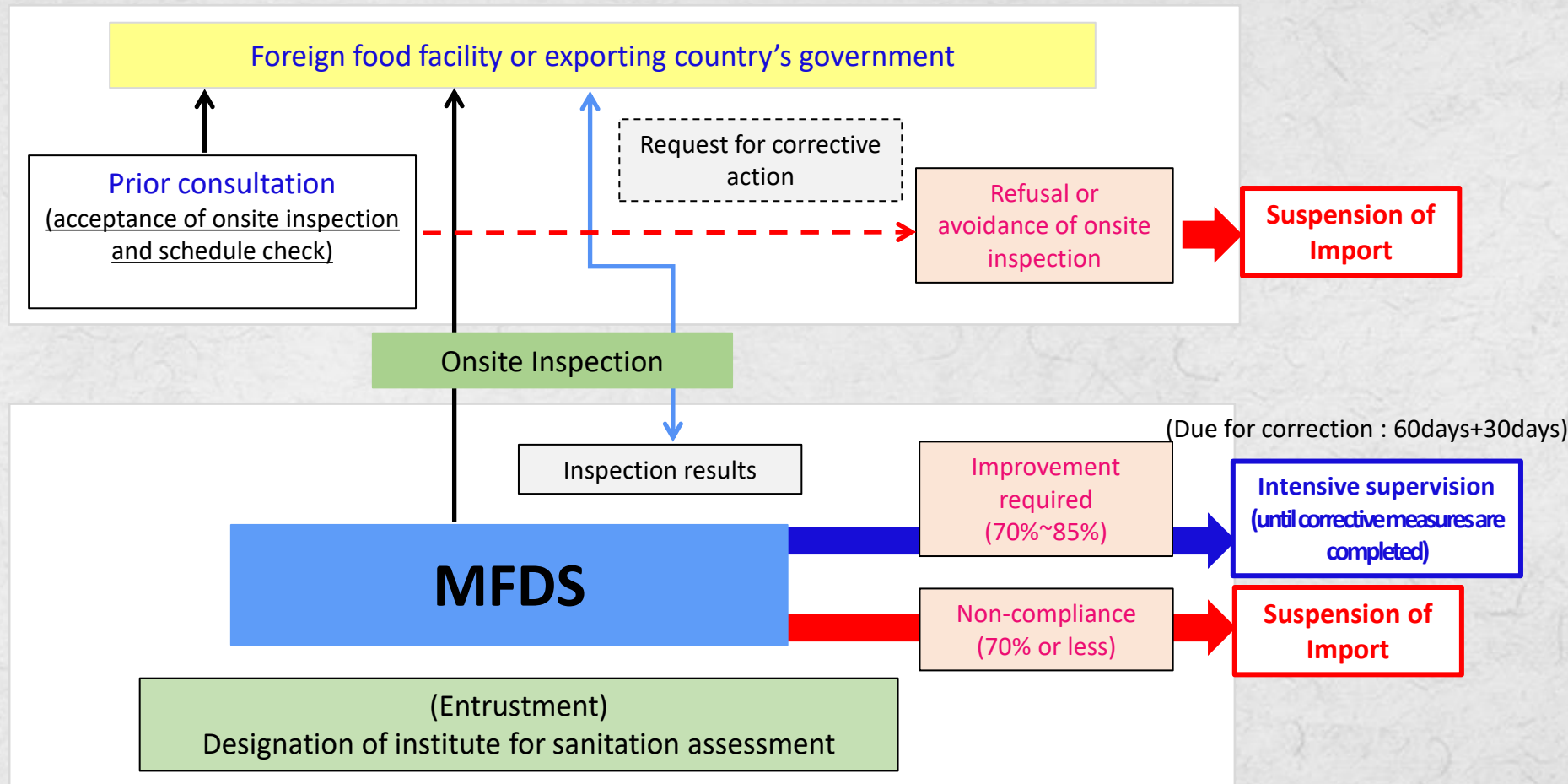
Safety control applied prior to importation

On-site inspection for foreign food facilities

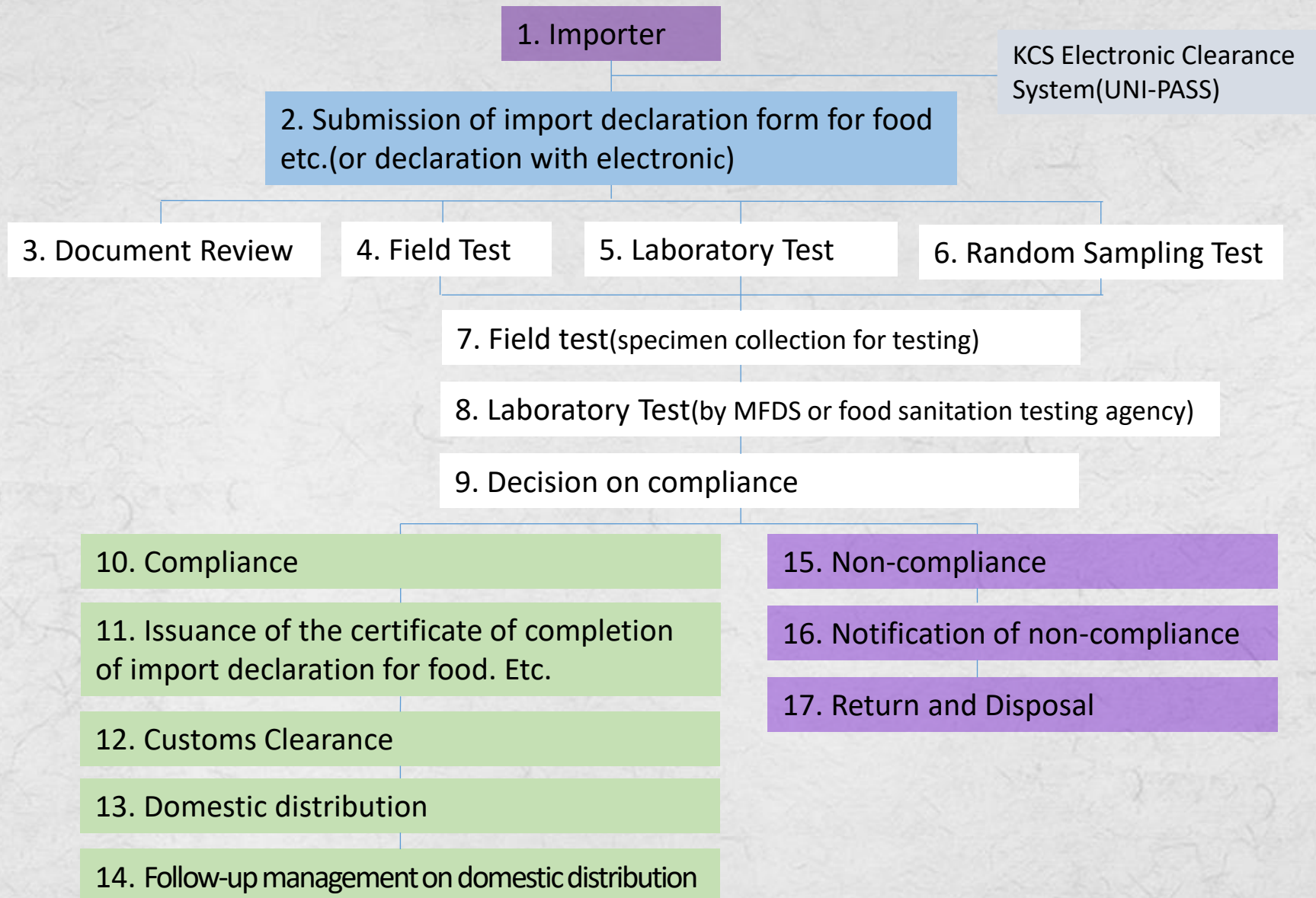
- The MFDS may conduct an on-site inspection of an foreign food facility through prior consultation with its government or the foreign food facility
 - ✓ Where deemed that an on-site inspection is necessary to prevent risk in imported food, etc., and that it is necessary to confirm facts about safety information on imported food, etc. collected at home and abroad
- Where refusing an on-site inspection or being likely for a hazard to occur in imported food as a result of the on-site inspection, the importation may be suspended
 - ✓ Where identifying any cause of a problem and suggesting improvements, the suspension of importation may be revoked

Safety control applied prior to importation

On-site inspection for foreign food facilities

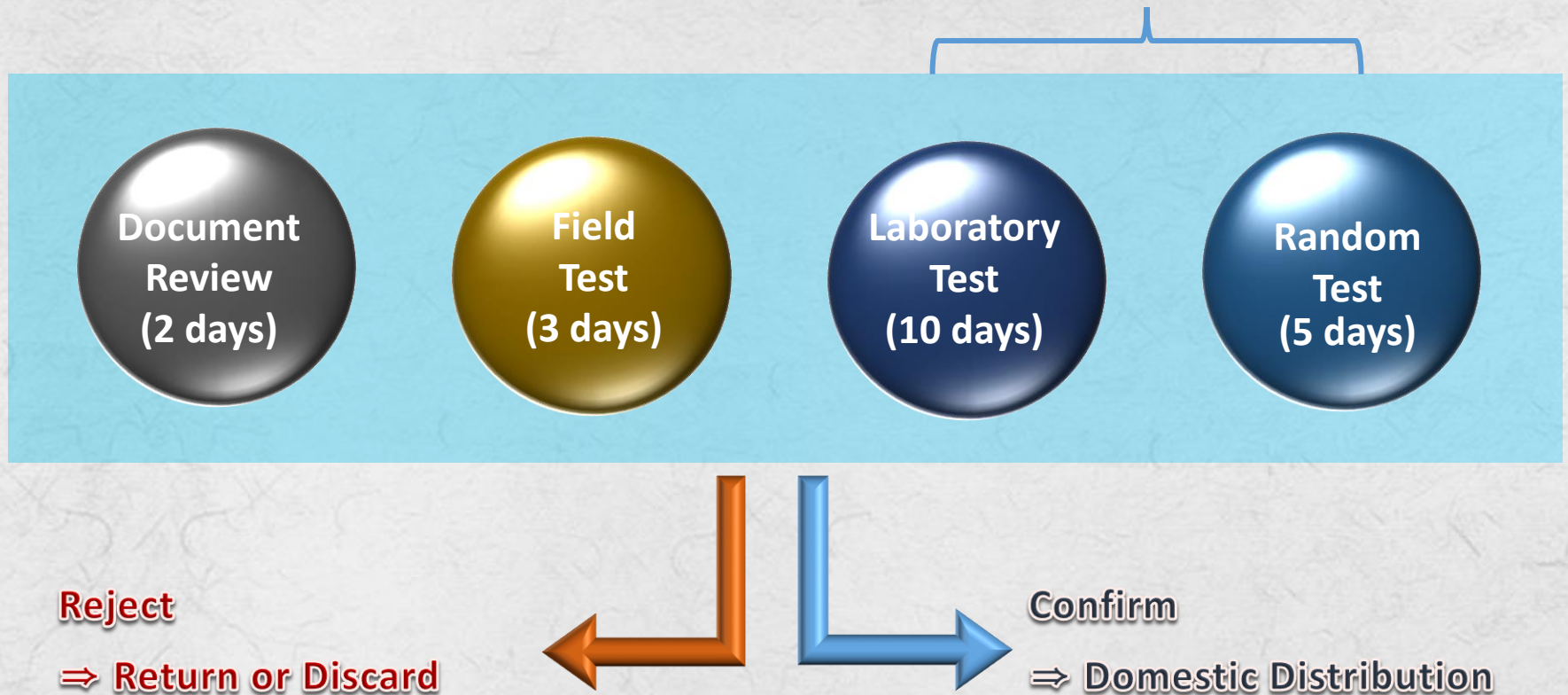


Import declaration and inspection



Inspection

Physical • Chemical •
Microbiological Test



Details on test types

Document Review

- A test to **determine whether it is appropriate by reviewing** the report documents, etc.

Field Test

- Whether it is suitable or not is determined by **synthesizing the nature, condition, indication, and detailed inspection history of the product**

Laboratory Test

- **When a product is imported into Korea for the first time**
- Product with **rejection history** or **risk information shared** from various source
- In case where standards or specification has been changed

Random Test

- Products chosen by MFDS electronic system according to the annual **random sampling plan**

Main points to consider with regards to inspection

- Verifying **constituents, manufacturing process, usage, labeling, taste, color, appearance, standards and specifications** for food products to be imported
- ✓ **Whether the product meets the standards or specifications of Food Code, Food Additives Code**
- ✓ **Whether the manufacturing methods are appropriate**
- ✓ **Whether the product has a proper combination of food constituents**
- ✓ **Whether the required certificates are filed and correct(GMO, BSE, etc)**
- ✓ **Whether the product is rotten or deteriorated**
- ✓ **Whether the product is properly labeled**
- ✓ **Whether the product has any exaggerated advertisement/package or misleading labeling**
- ✓ **etc**

Reference

Notices for on-site inspection, sanitation requirements, and inspections in the customs clearance

1. Inspections for imported food etc.
2. Inspections for imported health functional food
3. Import declaration and inspection of imported livestock products
4. Countries allowed for lives stock exportation & import sanitation requirements
5. Provision for food products subject to inspection order
6. Training and designation & operation of training institution for business entities
7. Procedure and standards for registration and on-site inspection of foreign food facilities
8. Standard for registration and management of Good Importers
9. Regulations for the works of imported food sanitation audit institution
10. Standards for setting the expiration date of food, food additives, livestock products and health functional food
11. Traceability of imported food

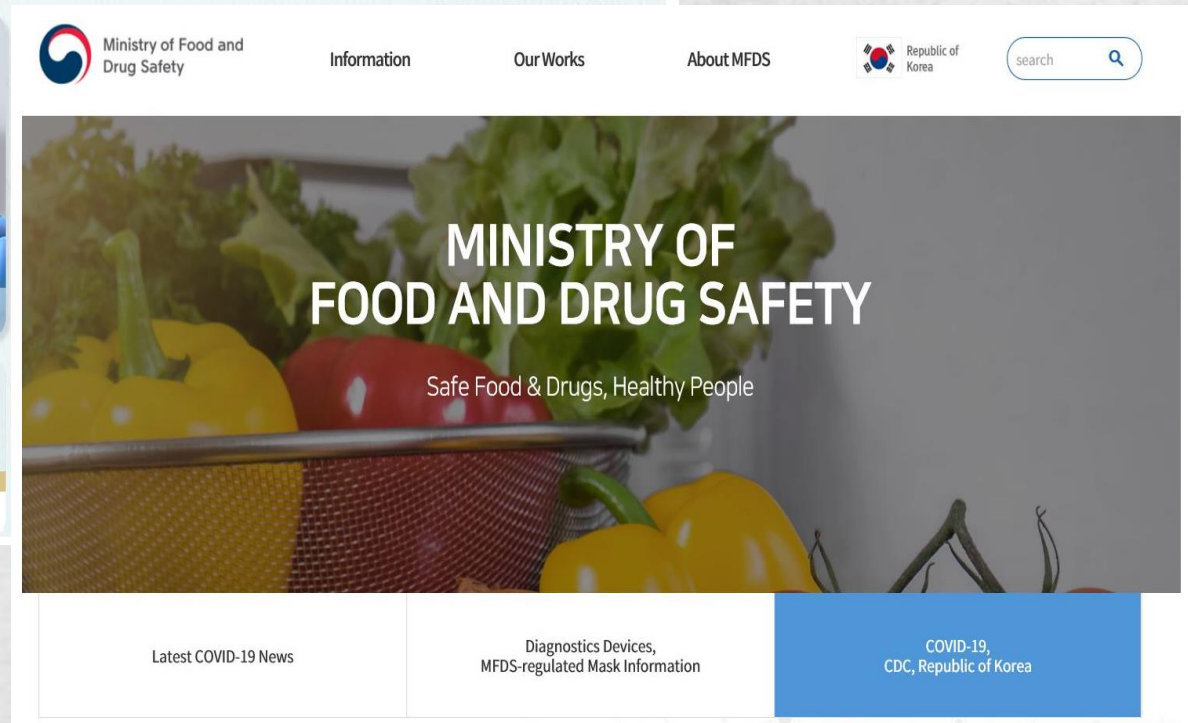
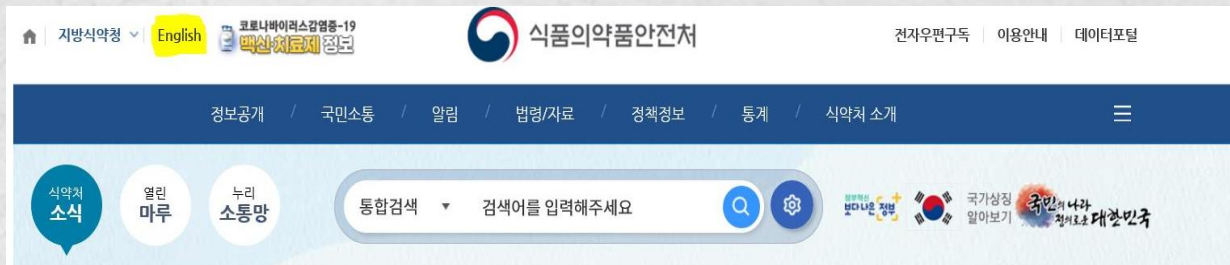
Regulations related to the standards and specification for imported food

1. Standards and specifications for food
2. Standards and specifications for food additives
3. Standards and specifications for health functional food
4. Regulation on approval of functional ingredient for health functional food
5. Standards and specifications for food utensils, containers and packages

Homepages


MFDS main homepage(Korean): <http://www.mfds.go.kr/index.do>

MFDS main homepage(English): <http://www.mfds.go.kr/eng/index.do>



Imported Food Information Site

<http://www.impfood.mfds.go.kr>



수입식품정보마루
Imported Food Information Maru

전자민원 | 알림자료 | 안전정보 | 통계정보 | 고객지원

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For importing other foods

Imported Food Policy Division

- ***Tel : 82-43-719-2160***
- ***Fax : 82-43-719-2150***
- ***Mail : kangsp2000@korea.kr***

Thank You!



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