FY2006 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law "Kettles"

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2006, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of "Kettles" 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 kettles available in the market for the test. The sample kettles were made of aluminum, enameled iron, stainless-steel or copper, with a capacity of 10 liters or less.

These products are required to indicate surface treatment, kind of material, maximum capacity, handling precautions, labeler's name, address or telephone number, etc. Following results, 9 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations.

The leading noncompliant items were; incorrect labeling for kind of material and failure in using designated terms.

Particulars to be declared	Noncompliant details	# of
		samples (*)
Surface treatment	The product contained no designated terms.	1
Kind of material	Actual materials differed from the displayed ones.	3
	The products failed to use designated terms.	2
Kind of material (thickness)	Actual thickness deviated from the displayed value by a	1
	margin exceeding the acceptable error range of $\pm 15\%$.	
Maximum capacity	Actual capacity deviated from the indicated value by a	2
	margin exceeding the acceptable error range of $\pm 5\%$.	
Handling precautions	Voluntary items were displayed in boxed labeling under	2
	the "Household Goods Quality Labeling Law".	
Labeler's name	The labelers failed to declare their proper names.	2
Labeling manner	"Handling precautions" were printed only on the outer	1
	packaging likely to be disposed of, and not on parts	
	likely to be kept in storage.	

Details of the noncompliance are as follows:

(*) 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.