

The JFTC Issued Cease and Desist Orders and Surcharge Payment Orders to the Participants in Bidding for the Country Elevator Works and the Rice Milling Facility Works ordered by the Agricultural Cooperatives, etc.

March 26, 2015  
Japan Fair Trade Commission

The Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) today issued the cease and desist orders and the surcharge payment orders to the participants in bidding for the manufacturing and installation works of country elevator and the rice milling facility ordered by the agricultural cooperatives, etc., finding that they substantially restrained competition in the field of the works by designating successful bidders and managing to have the designated successful bidders win the biddings. The total amount of the surcharge to be paid is 1.18 billion yen.

Prior to the issuance of the cease and desist orders, the JFTC had notified the participants of the contents of the proposed orders and provided them with opportunities to submit their opinions and evidences to the JFTC. The orders have been issued after the JFTC took into consideration the opinions and the evidences so submitted. A recipient dissatisfied with the order may request, within sixty days of the service of the transcript of the order, the JFTC to initiate the hearing procedures regarding the order.

The JFTC also requested the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations (ZEN-NOH), which undertook management work of the works, to take recurrence preventive measure, finding that ZEN-NOH's employees in charge induced or facilitated the violations in such ways as indicating their preference for successful bidders and informing the participants in bidding of upper limit prices that is not to be disclosed.

(Note) "Country elevator" means a facility for drying, husking and storage of grains.