

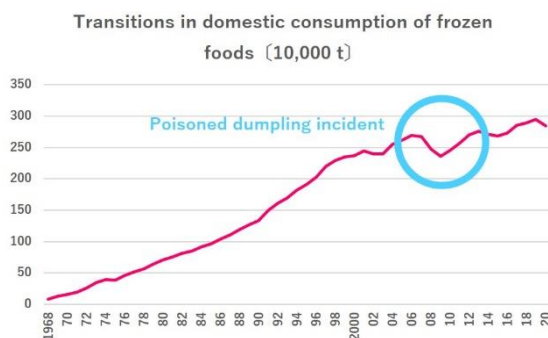
One Pager! Problems in Frozen Food Industry

o Safety of Frozen Foods

Processed foods often contain additives. Some of them are or can be a factor of cancer, so there has been much discussion about them.

But frozen foods are kept below -18°C . So, they need not be contained additives. They have fewer risks for health than other processed ones.

A factor many people are aware of the safety of frozen food is the "Poisoned dumpling incident" from 2007 to 2008. Frozen dumplings made in China contained organophosphate pesticides, and many consumers developed severe poisoning symptoms. Although they were recalled, it was a major incident that shook the confidence in food safety and imported foods. According to the standards of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at that time, the country of manufacture was required to be indicated. People were reluctant to buy foods produced in China, and sales of frozen foods dropped by as much as 30% in some companies.



Since then, companies have been making efforts to make foods that people can eat with peace of mind by clearly indicating the place of origin of ingredients on the packaging.

o Power and Logistics Issues

While the demand for refrigeration equipment increased, the electricity demand also increased. The need for more efficient refrigeration led to the use of freon as refrigerants.

However, when freon was found to be an ozone-depleting substance, their use was restricted. In recent years, freon has been replaced by alternative ones and other measures have been taken.

Freon is also a problem in the cold chain. There are also several challenges, such as costing more than normal delivery and requiring resources such as monitoring staff to maintain a constant controlled temperature.

o Problem Solving and the SDGs

An increasing number of companies are working to avoid using freon in electricity and logistics. In terms of logistics, modal shifts (switching transportation methods from cars, which emit a large amount of CO_2 , to railroads and ships, which have a smaller environmental impact) are attracting attention.

Plus, MUJI has a project to collect soft-type refrigerants at each store. The collected refrigerants are cleaned and reused when the company sells its frozen foods.

Each manufacturer contributes to the SDGs, mainly through environmentally friendly activities. As these activities progress, it is hoped that frozen foods will evolve into sustainable food.