

Nippon Flour Mills obtains ISO 9000 series certification for all milling and food plants

Tokyo, July 12, 2002—The Otaru plant of Nippon Flour Mills Co., Ltd., under the leadership of President Masataka Horikawa, recently obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification for the quality of its management system covering wheat flour planning/development and manufacturing operations. This latest official recognition means that all of the company's 12 plants for flour, premixed batter, corn, pasta, and frozen foods have now secured ISO 9000 series certifications.

The Company has been promoting groupwide efforts to obtain certification under criteria set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and has won recognition for quality management systems at its pasta, flour milling, corn, and premixed dry batter plants, becoming the first Company in Japan to obtain certification in each industry segment.

In addition, by the end of the current fiscal year, the company aims to make the transition to obtaining ISO 9001:2000 certifications for all facilities certified under ISO 9002:1994 guidelines. The ISO 9001:2000 standard, which is the most recent one, replaces the 1994 versions of the ISO 9000 family of standards (ISO 9001, 9002, and 9003) for assessing quality management. The standard sets requirements covering management of processes affecting quality, and thus also encourages enterprises to work toward increasing customer satisfaction while continuously striving to improve the product management system.

As of June 27, Nippon Flour Mills appointed personnel to be responsible for risk management and reorganized the Quality Control Division, renaming it the Quality Management Division, as part of a comprehensive drive to reinforce assurance of the safety of its food products.

From now on, the Company aims to ensure quality assurance based on flawless management systems for each business, and thus supply safe and high-quality products that earn customer confidence and guarantee satisfaction.

1. Certifying organization: Japan Quality Assurance Organization (JQA)
2. Scope of certification: Wheat flour planning/development and manufacturing operations.
3. Mill receiving certification:
 - Otaru Mill
 - 1-1-3 Takashima, Otaru City, Hokkaido
 - Monthly production capacity: About 5,600 tonnes
4. Date of certification: July 5, 2002

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