

Review of the Ban on Internet Sales of Non-prescription Drugs

Outline of the Regulatory Reform

- The revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Act was enacted at the extraordinary Diet session **which permits Internet sales of virtually all kinds of non-prescription drugs under proper rules to ensure the safety of consumers.**

Effects on Economic Growth

- Options for purchasing methods increase and **the convenience of consumers improves.**
- Establishing the Internet as a new infrastructure for economic society will **promote the creation of new industries and innovation.**

	Class 1 drugs	Class 2 drugs	Class 3 drugs
	Especially high risks <Approx. 100 kinds> (e.g.) gastrointestinal drugs, analgesic antipyretic drugs, etc.	Relatively high risks <Approx. 8,290 kinds> (e.g.) analgesic antipyretic drugs, cold medicine, etc.	Relatively low risks <Approx. 2,950 kinds> (e.g.) vitamin supplements, intestinal remedies, etc.
Before reform	Internet sales not permitted		Internet sales permitted

5 kinds (0.04%)**
out of approx. 11,000

After reform

Internet sales permitted*

* With regard to the 23 kinds of drugs immediately after having been switched to non-prescription drugs, Internet sales will be permitted after confirming their safety during the period basically not exceeding three years.

** The 5 kinds of dangerous drugs require over-the-counter sales.