

Outline of Investigative Report and Proposals
regarding the Collection and Utilization of
Information concerning Accidents at
Educational/Childcare Facilities, Etc.

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The Consumer Commission

Table of Contents

1. The Current Situation regarding Accidents at Educational/Childcare Facilities, Etc.	1
2. Issues regarding the Collection and Utilization of Accident Information	2
3. Proposal Item (1): The Collection of Accident Information	3
4. Proposal Item (2): The Analysis and Utilization of Accident Information	4

1. The Current Situation regarding Accidents at Educational/Childcare Facilities, Etc.

- At educational/childcare facilities¹ such as daycare centers and kindergartens, **serious accidents, including those in which children die**, never cease².

1. The educational/childcare facilities, etc. included in the Commission's proposals on this occasion consist of authorized children's centers, kindergartens, daycare centers, after-school children's clubs, after-school children's classes, family support center businesses, local childcare businesses, unauthorized childcare facilities, and babysitting businesses.

2. Cases outside of consumer accidents, etc. are also included.

(1) No. of Accidents at Daycare Centers, Etc.

(Based on materials released by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Year		2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Deaths	Authorized childcare centers	5	2	6	4	17
	Unauthorized childcare facilities	8	12	12	15	47
Injuries, etc. of at least 30 days	Authorized childcare centers	33	67	110	135	345
	Unauthorized childcare facilities	5	8	17	8	38
Total		51	89	145	162	447

(2) No. of Accidents at After-School Children's Clubs

(Based on materials released by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Period	October 2010 – September 2011	January- December 2012	January-December 2013	Total
Deaths	1	1	0	2
Injuries, etc. of at least 30 days	260	228	218	706
Total	261	229	218	708

(3) No. of Accidents at Kindergartens

(Based on materials released by the National Agency for the Advancement of Sports and Health)

Fiscal Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Deaths	0	0	1	-	1
Injuries	16	2	5	-	23
Total	16	2	6	-	24

[Examples of Fatal Accidents]

- During a nap at a childcare center, a child entered a state of cardiopulmonary arrest; the child's death was verified at the hospital he/she was transported to.
- While playing in the river at an overnight childcare event for a kindergarten, a child was swept into sudden high water and died.
- At a childcare center, a rice-flour dumpling became caught in a child's throat, leading to death.

[Accidents Accompanied by Injuries or Illnesses Requiring at Least 30 Days of Medical Treatment]

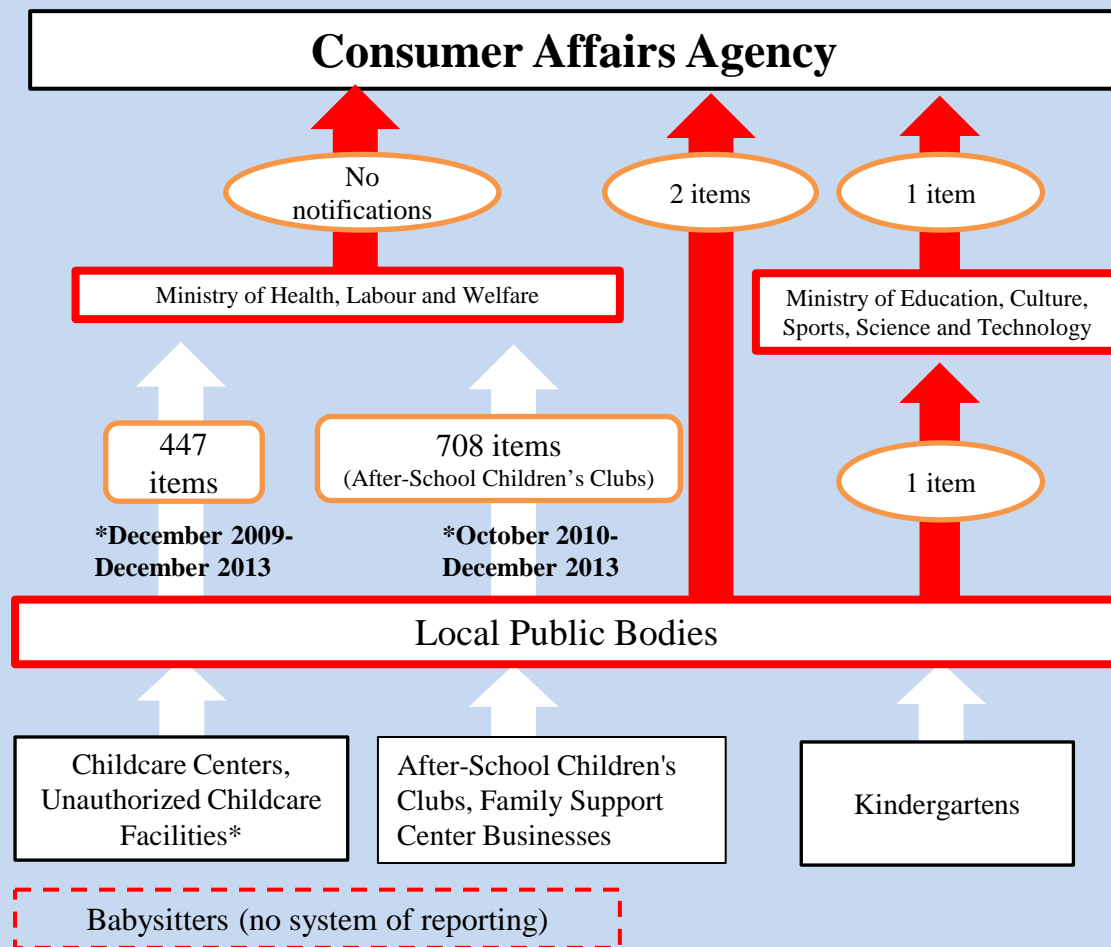
- When a child clambered up a children's pool that had been set up at a kindergarten, the pool collapsed and the child struck his/her head, leading to a state of unconsciousness.
- A child was found floating face-down in a pool at a kindergarten. This was a serious condition of temporary cardiopulmonary arrest.

(Based on materials released by the Consumer Affairs Agency and data from the "Accident Information Databank")

2. Issues regarding the Collection and Utilization of Accident Information

Notifications to the Consumer Affairs Agency based on the Consumer Safety Act are not being properly conducted, and **accident information is not being aggregated at the Consumer Affairs Agency**. In order to take measures to prevent the expansion and reoccurrence of harm, the proper aggregation and sharing of information is necessary as a prerequisite.

The Situation regarding the Notification of Information concerning Accidents at Educational/Childcare Facilities, Etc. from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and Local Public Bodies to the Consumer Affairs Agency



Key: **Red boxes** denote organizations with a duty to provide notification of accident information based on the Consumer Safety Act.

- **Red arrows** denote notifications of accident information based on the Consumer Safety Act.
- **White arrows** denote reports of accident information at the request of the ministry of jurisdiction.

*With regard to notification numbers, items with no special annotation are from fiscal years 2010 to 2013.

*Among unauthorized childcare facilities, there are some locations that are not grasped by the government. Accident information at such locations has not been collected.

3. Proposal Item (1): The Collection of Accident Information

The Current Situation and Issues

- It is necessary to reliably work toward enforcing the collection of accident information under the New System of Support for Children and Childrearing.
- The business situation is not adequately grasped and accident information is not being properly collected for small-scale, unauthorized childcare facilities not subject to reporting or for babysitting businesses.
- There is no accident information collection structure for babysitting businesses.
- With regard to educational/childcare facilities, etc., there is a gap between the number of accidents grasped by the Consumer Affairs Agency and the number of accidents grasped by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The notification of accident information based on the Consumer Safety Act is not being properly conducted, and accident information is not being consolidated at the Consumer Affairs Agency.
- The meaning of the Consumer Safety Act, that accident information should be consolidated at the Consumer Affairs Agency and the entire government should endeavor toward recurrence prevention, is not adequately understood by the two ministries and local public bodies.

Proposal Items

- Toward the enforcement of the New System of Support for Children and Childrearing (hereinafter the "New System"), the Cabinet Office; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter the "Relevant Government Ministries") should, at consideration sessions organized by the Relevant Government Ministries regarding measures to prevent the recurrence of serious accidents at educational/childcare facilities, etc., (hereinafter "Accident Recurrence Prevention Consideration Sessions") receive the assistance of the Consumer Affairs Agency and conduct considerations that include a notification system based upon the Consumer Safety Act when considering an accident information collection structure.
- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare should create a structure to properly collect accident information for babysitting businesses, for which there is no accident information collection structure, as well as small-scale, unauthorized childcare facilities, for which the business situation is not adequately grasped.
- With regard to the system of providing notification of accident information based on the Consumer Safety Act, the Consumer Affairs Agency should continuously make the Relevant Government Ministries aware of the scope and notification methods of information regarding accidents at educational/childcare facilities, etc. for which they should notify the Consumer Affairs Agency, and they should urge notification when necessary.
Further, the Relevant Government Ministries should make efforts such that when consumer accidents, etc. have occurred at educational/childcare facilities, etc., the notification of the accident information to the Consumer Affairs Agency based upon the Consumer Safety Act is conducted without fail.
Toward that end, with regard to the notification of accident information when consumer accidents, etc. subject to notification have occurred, the Relevant Government Ministries should conduct considerations that include the methods for the departments of local public bodies in charge of educational/childcare facilities to notify the Consumer Affairs Agency via the government ministry of jurisdiction. In addition, cooperation regarding the reporting of accident information should be requested of educational/childcare facilities, etc. via local public bodies.

4. Proposal Item (2): The Analysis and Utilization of Accident Information

The Current Situation and Issues

• The release of accident information and corresponding calls for attention by the Relevant Government Ministries are limited, and these actions are lacking in promptness and concreteness; thus, from the perspective of recurrence prevention, they are difficult to utilize at sites.

• It is necessary to deliver information to all educational/childcare facilities, and to households raising children as well.

• The Consumer Affairs Agency's "Accident Information Databank" and "Child Safety Mail" are not recognized at sites of education, childcare, etc., and are not being utilized.

• At Accident Recurrence Prevention Consideration Sessions, considerations for database compilation centered mainly on information that has already been aggregated are being conducted for the release, analysis, etc. of aggregated information.

• There are cases in which inspections are not conducted, even when fatal accidents have occurred at educational/childcare facilities, etc.

• In cases in which fatal or serious accidents have occurred, there are two requests: to specify the causes of occurrence for individual accidents and disclose these to the victims' families, and to analyze similar accidents and, upon clarifying the important points for recurrence prevention, share the information nationwide.

Proposal Items

(1) In order to accurately grasp the needs of sites regarding accident information, the Relevant Government Ministries should include the managing bodies of facilities, local public bodies, etc. and conduct considerations, and even after the enforcement of the New System, they should continuously conduct considerations and aim for improvement.

(2) Regarding information such as knowledge for recurrence prevention and calls for attention, the Relevant Government Ministries should give feedback to all educational/childcare facilities, etc., including those not migrating to the New System. Further, bearing in mind the fact that accidents occurring at educational/childcare facilities, etc. could also occur in households, the Consumer Affairs Agency should endeavor to deliver information to households raising children as well.

(3) The Consumer Affairs Agency should receive the assistance of the Relevant Government Ministries and make local public bodies aware that the "Accident Information Databank" can be utilized for the creation of materials, etc. to give calls for attention. With regard to "Child Safety Mail," push-type information transmission should be promoted, such as encouraging childcare workers and households raising children to register.

(4) In the database compilation of accident information being considered at Accident Recurrence Prevention Consideration Sessions, the Relevant Government Ministries should conduct considerations that include the utilization of existing databases, such as the Consumer Affairs Agency's "Accident Information Databank."

(5) Based on the fact that there are two requests regarding the inspection of consumer accidents, etc. at educational/childcare institutions, etc. (to inspect individual accidents and to gain knowledge for the prevention of further harm and recurrence), the Relevant Government Ministries and the Consumer Affairs Agency should conduct considerations aimed at the creation of a proper inspection system that can achieve each objective.