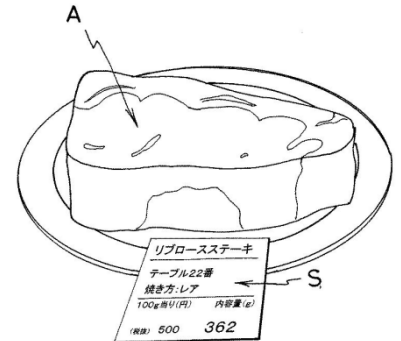


Japan IP High Court Says **Steak Providing** System is Patent **Eligible**

In Re. Pepper Food Service (Oct. 17, 2018)

Aki Ryuka
Japan Patent Attorney, Japan
Attorney at Law, California



Claim 1:

A system for **providing** a **steak** by guiding a customer to a standing table, hearing a weight of a steak, cutting the weight of the steak from a meat block, baking the steak, and bringing the steak to the table, comprising:

a plate which indicates a table number of the table,

a weight scale which measures the weight of the steak being cut, and

a marker which identifies the steak from steaks for others, wherein:

said weight scale prints a seal that shows the weight being measured and the table number being indicated on the plate, and

said marker is said seal.

(modified for readability by author)

The Court said:

While the claim recites steps to be carried out by a human, it also includes specific objects or apparatuses, including a plate, weight scale, and seal (marker). Writing the weight and the table number on a seal provides technical effects to avoid confusion of the cut steak with steaks for others. According to the patent specification, the seals are attached to an order sheet and dish of steak to avoid confusion. Because Claim 1 utilizes objects or apparatus for solving problems, it has technical means and is eligible under the Japan patent law.

Our Suggestions:

We have compared the [examination results of counterpart applications in IP5](#) for 20 software inventions decided by the court or Appeal Board. In summary, Japan and Korea are the most liberal, as exemplified above. We suggest [seeking broader scopes in the software fields in Japan](#) and Korea.

If you have any questions, please also let us know.