

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Thailand**

**Post:** Bangkok

### **Thai FDA Amends Import Requirement on Cry 9C DNA Presence in Food**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

TH1056 The Thai Food and Drug Administration no longer requires a Starlink-free certificate for the import of U.S. corn and corn products. The elimination of this requirement significantly lowers cost for the export of U.S. corn or corn products to Thailand that were valued at \$6 million in 2010.

## **Thai FDA Amends Import Requirement on Cry 9C DNA Presence in Food**

On April 28, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notified WTO (G/SPS/N/THA/200) of its change in safety measures for Cry 9C DNA Sequence corn (Starlink corn) contamination in food. Under the revised regulation, the Thai FDA no longer requires a Starlink-free certificate for the import of corn and corn products. The FDA decision to eliminate the Starlink certificate was made in response to a request from Post. Post and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) have worked together in this effort. GIPSA provided information indicating that Starlink corn has not been planted in the US since 2000, when its registration was withdrawn and there has not been a single positive test reported since 2005.

However, in order for the Thai FDA to maintain its food safety control on the possible Cry 9C DNA Sequence corn contamination in food, necessary surveillance measures such as random testing for the said contamination has continued to be put in place by the Thai FDA.

Eliminating this costly and unnecessary certificate will significantly lower exporter cost and make U.S. corn and corn products more competitive in the Thai market. In 2010, the export of U.S. corn and corn products to Thailand were valued at \$6 million.

(Unofficial)

Notification of the Ministry of Public Health

Re: Prescribed prohibited foods to be produced, imported, or sold

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It deems appropriate to adjust the consumer protection measures to reflect the change in current situation as there is a reliable information to ensure there has been no permission on the production of Starlink<sup>®</sup> corn since 2000 in the country of production of corn derived from genetically modification techniques Cry 9C DNA sequence or Starlink<sup>®</sup> corn.

By the virtue of the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 (8) of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), in which contain provisions in relation to the restriction of Rights and Liberties of the Persons, in respect of which Section 29 and in conjunction with Section 35, Section 48, and Section 50 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by virtue of provision of law; the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. The following notifications shall be repealed:

1. Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 215) B.E. 2544 (2001) Re: Prescribed prohibited foods to be produced, imported, or sold dated January 18<sup>th</sup> B.E. 2544 (2001).
2. Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 217) B.E. 2544 (2001) Re: Amendment of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 215) B.E. 2544 (2001) dated June 8<sup>th</sup> B.E. 2544 (2001).
3. Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 246) B.E. 2544 (2001) Re: Amendment of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 217) B.E. 2544 (2001) dated November 28<sup>th</sup> B.E. 2544 (2001).

Clause 2. Food contaminated with Cry 9C DNA Sequence or protein derived from the Cry 9C DNA shall be prohibited to be produced, imported, or sold.

Clause 3. This notification shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Notified on\_\_\_\_\_