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Thai FDA Defines Additional Plants Used as Raw Materials for Herbal

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

TH9167 The Thai Food and Drug Administration has notified the WTO of their draft notification to add to a list of plants and their parts to be used as raw materials for herbal tea.

Thai FDA Defines Additional Plants and their Parts to Used as Raw Materials for Herbal Tea

On October 21, the Thai Food and Drug Administration notified WTO (G/SPS/N/THA/134/Rev.1), a draft notification of the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) entitled “Prescribed Plants and Parts thereof as Raw Materials for Herbal Tea”. The proposed Notification of Thai Food and Drug Administration aims to add a list of plants and their parts to be used as raw materials for herbal tea as in accordance with the Notification of Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) No. 280 B.E. 2547 (2004). This notification will take into effect a day following the date of its published in Royal Gazette. MOPH Notification No. 280 is available at the end of this report.

Thailand imported \$2.8 million of herbal tea from the US in 2008.

(Draft)

Notification of Food and Drug Administration

Re: Prescribed Plants and Parts thereof as Raw Materials for Herbal Tea

Notification of Ministry Public Health No. 280 B.E. 2547 (2004) Re: Herbal Tea defined the Food and Drug Administration with the consent of the Food Committee to announce the additional list of plants and their parts to be used as raw materials for herbal tea.

By the virtue of provision clause5 of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No.280) B.E. 2547 (2004) Re: Herbal Tea dated 4 June B.E.2547 (2004) which issued by the virtue of provisions of Section 5 and 6 (2), (3) and (9) 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 33, Section 41, Section 43 and Section 45 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by the virtue of provisions of law. Food and Drug Administration issues the Notification as follows:

Clause 1. To repeal the Notification of Food and Drug Administration Re: Prescribed list of plants and their parts to be used as raw materials for herbal tea dated 15th November B.E. 2548 (2005)

Clause 2. Plants and their parts as provided in the attachment of this notification shall be used as raw materials for herbal tea

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

Notified on _____

Attachment to the Notification of Food and Drug Administration
Re: Prescribed Plants and Parts thereof as Raw Materials for Herbal Tea

List of plants or their parts used as raw materials for herbal tea is as follows:

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Stevia	Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni
2	Chinese licorice/Gan Cao	Glycyrrhiza glabra L.
3	Artichoke	Cynara scolymus L.

Notification of Ministry of Public Health

No. 280 B.E. 2547 (2004)

Re: Herbal Tea

As nowadays herbs are popular products for consumption as drinking tea, it deems necessary to set the standard for herbal tea to protect the consumers.

By the virtue of provisions of Section 5 and 6 (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) and (10) 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 39, Section 48 and Section 50 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by virtue of provisions of law; the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. Herbal Tea is prescribed food to have qualities or standards.

Clause 2. Herbal Tea means products derived from different parts of plants, which are not processed. Products are aimed to be boiled or brewed with water for consumption.

Clause 3. Plants as per Clause 2 shall be in accordance with the list provided in the attachment of this notification and additional list to be notified by the Food and Drug Administration with the consent of Food Committee.

Clause 4. Herbal Tea shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

(1) Moisture content as per the standard defined in Pharmacopoeia of Drug Law. If there is no

standard defined in Pharmacopoeia of Drug Law, the moisture content shall not more than 10 percent by weight.

- (2) Free of pathogenic microorganisms.
- (3) Free of toxic substances released by microorganisms, pesticides, contaminants, or other toxic substances in quantity which may be hazardous to health, except:
 - (3.1) Arsenic not more than 0.2 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.2) Cadmium not more than 0.3 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.3) Lead not more than 0.5 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.4) Copper not more than 5 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.5) Zinc not more than 5 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.6) Iron not more than 15 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.7) Tin not more than 250 mg. per 1 kg. of food
 - (3.8) Sulfur dioxide not more than 10 mg. per 1 kg. of food
- (4) No modern drug or psychotropic substances or narcotics
- (5) No color added
- (6) No flavors added except from plants defined in Clause 3 or young leaf, leaf apex, and petiole of tea (*Camellia sinensis*)

Clause 5. Herbal tea producers or importers for sale shall follow the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Production processes, production equipments, and foods storages.

Clause 6. Usage of containers for tea shall follow the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Containers.

Clause 7. Labels for herbal tea shall follow the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Labels

Clause 8. Any herbal tea producer or importer received food registration or food labeling, which are issued in accordance with the notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 214 B.E. 2543 (2000), Re: Beverage in Sealed Containers, dated 19th September B.E. 2543 (2000) and the Ministry of Public Health No. 230 B.E. 2544 (2001), Re: Beverage in Sealed Containers (No. 2) dated 24th July B.E. 2544 (2001), prior to this notification, shall continue using the food registration number received.

Clause 9. This notification shall be effective the day after being notified in the Royal Gazette.

Notified on 4th June B.E. 2547 (2004)

Mrs. Sudarat Keyuraphan

Minister of Public Health

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 121, Special Part 82 Ngor, dated 26th July 2004)

Attachment to the Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 280 B.E. 2547 (2004)

Re: Herbal Tea

List of plants or their parts used as raw materials for herbal tea

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Bael Fruit	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.
2	Rosella	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> L.
3	Ginger	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe
4	Galangal	<i>Alpinia galanga</i> (L.) Willd
5	Lemongrass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC.) Stapf
6	White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i> L.
7	Safflower (American Saffron)	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> L.
8	Asiatic Pennywort	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban
9	Pandanus	<i>Pandanus amaryllifolius</i> Roxb.
10	Chrysanthemum	<i>Chrysanthemum indicum</i> L.
11	Luo Han Gua	<i>Momordica grosvenori</i> Swingle
12	Reishi (Ling Zhi)	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i> (Fr.) Karst.
13	Indian Gooseberry	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.
14	Jiaogulan	<i>Gynostemma pentaphyllum</i> (Thunb.) Mak.
15	Jewel Vine	<i>Derris scandens</i> Benth.