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Thai FDA Produce Inspection Revised

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Report Highlights:
Effective July 1, the Thai FDA will implement new inspection procedures for fresh fruit and vegetable imports.

General Information:

Thai FDA Produce Inspection Procedures Revised

Effective July 1, the Thai FDA will implement new inspection procedures for fresh fruit and vegetable imports. Under the new inspection process, shipments will no longer be released before confirmed test results for MRL's are available.

The new inspection procedure requires Thai FDA officials to sample fruits and vegetables from each shipment for MRL testing using a GT test kit (www.gttestkit.com). The GT test identifies four groups

of pesticide residues: organophosphates, organochlorine, carbamates, and pyrethroid. The time required to obtain the results of the GT test is expected not to exceed 3 hours. If the test result is negative, the shipment will be released.

In the event of a positive test result, the sample will be sent to the national laboratory in Bangkok for re-testing. Per the Thai FDA, the time required for the retest performed by the national laboratory or other private labs will be limited to 1 working day.

The maximum residue levels of the identified four groups of chemicals are identified in Ministry of Public Health Notification (No. 288) re: foods with toxic residues. See annex. For those products not listed in the notification, the maximum level will be consistent with established Codex Alimentarius guidelines (http://logistics.fda.moph.go.th/data/notice/PesticideCODEX.pdf).

Shipments accompanied by a lab analysis report or a certificate issued by a government-accredited or third-party laboratory will not be quick tested and shall be accorded entry immediately. Certification must comply with ISO/IEC 17025 for the testing of the four pesticide groups as per MOPH notification 288.

Absent a lab analysis or certificate, a sample will be collected for the quick test and the shipment will be held pending the quick test results. The Thai FDA views the optional lab analysis report or certificate as a means to facilitate the imports of fruits and vegetables.

According to the Thai FDA, the adjustment in the inspection procedures will not be notified to the WTO.

In 2008, Thailand imported 490,960 tons of fruits and vegetables of which over 37 percent was from China. Thailand imported 28,256 tons of fruits and vegetables from the United States valued at $32 million in 2008.

Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanon Road, Nonthaburi
11000

27 May 2009

Subject: Measures for the Inspection of Imported Fresh Vegetables and Fruits
To: All fresh vegetable and fruit importers
Referred to: Food and Drug Administration's invitation letter, ref. # Sor Thor 1006/5817, dated 23 April 2009, to fresh vegetable and fruit importers to meet for hearing and discussion

As mentioned in the invitation letter about the Food and Drug Administration's plan to improve import procedures for fresh vegetables and fruits, the FDA invited importers for hearing and discussion on May 7, 2009. In the meeting, the FDA notified and discussed with all attending importers of new inspection measures for fresh vegetables and fruits. At the moment, the FDA finalized inspection measures and will enforce these measures as of 1 July 2009 with the following guidelines:

- In the case that evidence is provided to ensure that imported vegetables and fruits are safe from pesticide residue contamination, in 4 groups of Organochlorine, Organophosphorus, Carbamate, and Pyrethroid, FDA officials at port will release the shipment. Although a random sampling may be undertaken sometimes, the shipment will not be held. The following is example of the mentioned evidence:
    - A certificate issued by a government agency in the exporting country such as the certificate verifying that the particular exporting country conducts a good control by prohibiting any use of these four groups of hazardous agricultural substances, or
    - A laboratory analysis report for imported vegetables and fruits issued by any ISO IEC 17025 certified laboratory
- In the case that no evidence is provided as required in (1), FDA official at port will conduct a sampling of imported fresh vegetables and fruits for a pesticide residue test. The testing process will take about 3 hours and then:
    - If the sample passes the test, the official will release the shipment
    - If the sample fails the test, the official will send the sample for a laboratory analysis which will take about 1 working day. The test result will be further reviewed as a part of the FDA's port inspection.

Additional information can be found at http://logistics.fda.moph.go.th/inspection/index.asp

This is for your information.

Sincerely,

Mr. Piphat Yingseri
Secretary General of Food and Drug Administration
Food Import and Export Inspection
Tel: 0-2590-7364
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ANNEX

Notification of Ministry of Public Health
(No. 288) B.E. 2548 (2005)
RE: Food with Toxic Residues

For the purpose of prevention of accumulation of toxic substances from the consumption of food containing pesticide residues.

By the virtue of the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 (3) 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, 39, 48 and 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:

No. 1 The Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 163 B.E. 2538 (1995) Re: Food with Toxic Residues, dated April 28, 1995 shall be repealed.

No. 2 In this notification:

Toxic residue means pesticides and their derivatives, which are conversion products, metabolites, reaction products or foreign matters in pesticides, which contaminate or remain in food.

Pesticides means chemical substances aimed to be used to prevent, destroy, attract, repel or control vermins and pests or undesired plants and pests, whether they are used during cultivation, storage, transportation, distribution, or used during the process of food production, or chemical substances that may be used with pests so as to control ectoparasites, and it shall mean to include substances used to control the growth of plant, substances used to cause defoliation, defruiting,

inhibition of young leaves, or substances applied in pre- and post-harvested plant products to prevent deterioration during storage and transportation; but not including those substances applied as fertilizer, nutritious substance for plants and animals, food additives and veterinary drugs.

No.3 Food with toxic resides shall have the following standards:

- The toxic substances caused from the used of pesticides, which MRLs are applied must be of those officially registered and the established Maximum Residue Limit: MRLs are provided in the Annex 1 of this MOPH notification
- The tolerances of those toxic substances in agriculture which are officially prohibited under the Notification of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) are not permitted, except for the established Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit: EMRL as provided for in the Annex 2 of this MOPH notification;
- In cases other than (1) and (2), the residual toxic substances must be complied with the established MRLs set forth by Codex Alimentarious Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme.

This notification shall be effective the day after being notified in the National Gazette.

Notified on 17th January 2005.
Mrs. Sudarat Keyurabhun
Minister of Public Health

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 122, Special Part 021 Ngor, dated 11th March 2005.)

Annex 1
List attached to Notification of Public Health Ministry (No. 288) B.E. 2548 (2005)
Maximum Residue Level, MRL

Agricultural dangerous materials	Type of Residue	Type of food	Maximum Residue Limit; MRL (Mg of substance per 1 kg of food)
Acephate	Acephate	Mungbean	0.02
		Peanut	0.02
		Coffee bean	0.02
		Cocoa been	0.02
		Cotton seed	2
		Mammal meat	0.05
		Mammal entrails	0.05

		Fowl meat	0.01
		Fowl entrails	0.01
		Egg	0.01
		Milk	0.02
Carbbaryl	Carbbaryl	Karshtamarind	0.02
		Rice	1
		Dry corn grain	0.02
		Fresh cord pod	0.1
		Young cord pod	0.1
		Millet	0.5
		Rambutan	1
		Cucumber and other melons	3
		Water melon	1
		Peanut	2
		Durian	1
		Oil palm fruit	0.02
		Chili	5
		Sweet pepper	5
		Cabbage type vegetables	5
		Coconut	0.02
		Mango	1
		Cashew nut	1
		Mangosteen	1
		Potato	0.2
		Cocoa bean	0.02
		Longan	1
		Lichee	1
		Orange	15
		Sugar cane	0.02
		Mammal meat	0.05
		Mammal entrails	1
		Fowl meat	0.05
		Egg	0.5
		Milk	0.05
Chlorpyrifos	Chlorpyrifos	Green roselle	0.1
		Banana	2
		Rice	0.1
		Rambutan	0.5
		Peanut	0.05
		Soybean	0.05
		Fresh pod of soybean	0.1
		Oil palm fruit	0.05
		Chili	0.5
		Coconut	0.05
		Sweet potato	0.05
		Longan	0.5
		Lichee	0.5

		Onion	0.2
		Shallot	0.2
		Cow and uffalo beaf and mutton	1 (fat)
		Entrails of cow, buffalo and sheep	0.01
		Pork	0.02 (fat)
		Pork entrails	0.01
		Fowl meat	0.01 (fat)
		Fowl entrails	0.01
		Egg	0.01
		Milk	0.02
Dicofol	**Products from vegetable:** Daicofol (Total sum of ortopara and para para isomers) (o,p' & p,p'-isomers (Dissolved in fat)	Cucumber	0.5
		Mungbean	0.1
		Soybean	0.05
		Tomato	1
		Cow and buffalo beef	3 (fat)
		Cow and buffalo entrails	1
		Fowl meat	0.1 (fat)
Dicofol	**Products from animal:** (Total Sum of Dicofol and 2,2-dichloro-1,1-bis (4-chlorofenil) Ethanol (Para para-FW 152) {(2,2-dichloro-1,1-bis(4-chlorophenyl) ethanol (p,p'-FW 152)) report its result in Dicofol (dissolved in fat)	Fowl entrails	0.05
		Egg	0.05
		Milk	0.1F
Dimethoate	Dimethoate	Millet	0.01
		Cucumber and other melons	1
		Cow-pea	1
		Dry seed bean	0.1
		Tomato	2
		Cotton seed	0.05
		Orange	2
		Onion	0.05
		Shallot	0.05
		Mammal meat	0.05
		Mammal fat	0.05
		Cow and buffalo entrails and mutton	0.05
		Fowl meat	0.05
		Fowl fat	0.05
		Fowl entrails	0.05
		Egg	0.05
		Milk	0.05
Cypermethrin	Cypermethrin	Green Roselle	0.2
		Fresh pod of corn	0.05
		Young pod of corn	0.05

		Dry seed corn	0.05
		Cow-pea	0.05
		Garden pea	0.05
		Soybean	0.05
		Fresh pod soybean	5
		Durian	0.05
		Chili	0.05
Cypermethrin	Cypermethrin	Cabbage type vegetables	1
		Long egg plant, egg plant used in curry and other egg plants	0.2
		Tomato	0.5
		Cotton seed	0.2
		Orange	2
		Asparagus	0.1
		Sugar cane	0.05
		Onion	0.1
		Shallot	0.1
		Mammal meat	0.2 (fat)
		Mammal entrails	0.05
		Fowl meat	0.05
		Fowl entrails	0.05
		Egg	0.05
		Milk	0.05F
Malathion	Malathion	Cabbage	8
		Dry seed corn	0.05
		Fresh pod of corn	0.02
		Young pod of corn	0.02
		Millet	3
		Kale	3
		Cauliflower	0.5
		Shallot spring	5
		Broccoli	5
		Chinese cabbage	8
		Chili	0.5
		Tomato	0.5
		Tapioca	0.5
		Orange	4
		Onion	1
		Shallot	1
		Sugar cane	0.01
Methomyl	Total sum of	Green koselle	2
	Methomyl and	Dry seed corn	0.02
	Thiodicarb result	Fresh pod of corn	0.1
	Report as methomyl	Young pod of corn	0.1
		Millet	0.2
Methomyl	Total sum of	Sucumber and other melons	0.2
	Methomyl and	Water melon	0.2

	Thiodicarb result	Mungbean	0.05
	Report as methomyl	Cow-pea	1
		Peanut	0.1
		Soybean	0.2
		Fresh pod of soybean	0.1
		Soybean oil	0.2
		Sesame seed	0.2
		Cotton seed	0.2
		Cotton seed oil	0.04
		Chili	1
		Tomato	0.5
		Long egg, plant, egg plant used in curry and other egg plant	0.2
		Lemon	1
		Potato	0.02
		Orange	1
		Asparagus	2
		Onion	0.2
		Shallot	0.2
		Mammal meat	0.02
		Mammal entrails	0.02
		Fowl meat	0.02
		Fowl entrails	0.02
		Egg	0.02
		Milk	0.02
Omethoate	Omethoate	Karsh tamarind	0.01
		Mungbean	0.05
		Soybean	0.05
		Tapioca	0.05
		Coffee bean	0.01
		Cotton seed	0.05
Profenofos	Profenofos	Cabbage	1
		Rose apple	0.05
		Shallot sprout	0.05
		Soybean	0.05
		Durian	0.05
Profenofos	Profenofos	Cotton seed oil	0.05
		Cabbage type vegetables, except cabage	0.05
		Chili	5
		Sweet pepper	0.5
		Cotton seed	2
		Tomato	2
		Lemon	0.05
		Mango	0.05
		Mangosteen	0.05
		Orange	0.1

		Onion	0.05
		Shallot	0.05
		Grape	0.05
		Mammal meat	0.05
		Mammal entrails	0.05
		Fowl meat	0.05
		Fowl entrails	0.05
		Egg	0.02
		Milk	0.01
Triazophos	Triazophos	Garlic	0.05
		Millet	0.05
		Mungbean	0.2
		Peanut	0.05
		Soybean	0.05
		Fresh pod soybean	0.2
		Jujube Zizyphus	0.2
		Coffee bean	0.05
		Cocoa bean	0.05
		Sesame bean	0.05
		Sunflower bean	0.05
		Onion	0.05
		Shallot	0.05
		Grape	0.02
		Cow and buffalo beef	0.01
		Fowl meat	0.01
		Milk	0.01

Annex 2

List attached to Notification of Public Health Ministry (No. 288) B.E. 2548 (2005)

Extraneous Maximum Residue Level, EMRL

Type of Food	Meximum Toxic Residues Allowed (Mg./1 Kg of Food)				
	Aldrin and Dieldrin	Chlordane	DDT	Endrin	Heptachlor
Cereal	0.02	0.02	0.1	0.01	0.02
Fruits	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Vegetable and spices	-	0.02	-	-	0.05
Vegetable and spices except cucurbit, tubers, roots	0.05	-	-	-	-
Vegetable and spices except cucurbit	-	-	-	0.01	-
Vegetable and spices except carrot	-	-	0.01	-	-
Cucurbit	0.1	-	-	0.05	-
Vegetable tubers and roots	0.1	-	-	-	-
Carrot	-	-	0.2	-	-
Sugar-yielding plant	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Plant used as beverages	0.2	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.05

Nut and Seed	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.05
Dry pea and seed oil	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02
Fats and vegetable oils	0.2	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.02
Fats and animal oils	0.2	0.05	1	0.05	0.2
Meat and offal of mammals	0.2 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	5 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	0.2 (fats)
Meat and offal of poultry	0.2 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	0.3 (fats)	0.1 (fats)	0.2 (fats)
Meat of aquatic animals, mollusc and invertebrates	0.2 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	1 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	0.2 (fats)
Meat of amphibian	0.2 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	1 (fats)	0.05 (fats)	0.2 (fats)
Egg	0.1	0.02	0.1	0.005	0.05
Milk	0.006F	0.002F	0.02F	0.0008F	0.006F