

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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## Thailand

**Post:** Bangkok

### **Thai FDA Implements Safety Measures on Japanese Food Imports**

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Incident Report

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**Report Highlights:**

TH1050 On March 15, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) increased its safety measures on foods imported from Japan on concerns of possible radioactive contamination by conducting random radiation testing especially on fruits, vegetables, and seafood products. Although no ban has been instituted, the Thai FDA has issued new regulations prescribing a new set of standards for radioactive contamination in foods and requiring an import certificate from the Japanese authorities to ensure that the food is safe.

## **Thai FDA Tightens Safety Measures on Japanese Food Imports**

On March 15, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) increased its safety measures on foods imported from Japan on concerns of possible radioactive contamination by conducting random radiation testing, especially on fruits, vegetables, and seafood products. As of April 12, the Thai FDA has tested a total of 274 samples of fish, seafood, seaweed, fresh and dried fruits, wheat flour, fermented vegetables, sweet potatoes, and butter. Of these samples, only a sample of sweet potato was found to have been contaminated with a screening of 15.25 Bq/Kg of Iodine 131, which is still lower than the hazardous threshold of 100 Bq/Kg set by CODEX.

Although no ban has been instituted, the Thai FDA has issued new regulations prescribing a new set of standards for radioactive contamination in foods, and requiring an import certificate from the Japanese authorities to ensure that the food is safe. The new regulation only applies to food originating from 12 prefectures - Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Saitama, Tokyo, and Chiba. Every shipment originating from these prefectures requires an import certificate and the importer must ensure that the information contained in it must include the types of foods being imported, the radioactive contamination level, and the prefecture where the food was produced. In addition, under the Ministerial Notification Re: Prescribed Import Conditions of Foods with Risk from Radioactive Contamination, the Thai FDA set standards of 100 Bq/Kg for Iodine-131, and 500 Bq/Kg for the total of cesium-134 and cesium-137 for all food imports with risk of radioactive contamination. The regulations took effect on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and Thailand notified this regulation to the WTO on April 19, 2011

Thailand imported agricultural and seafood products from Japan valued at \$309 million in 2010 and Japan is one of the top-three major exporters of fish and seafood to Thailand valued at \$162 million in 2010.

## Thailand's Agricultural and Food Import Statistic 2008-2010

<b>Thailand Import Statistics</b>							
<b>UDG: Agricultural, Fish &amp; Forestry, Group 1 (2007)</b>							
<b>Year: 2008 - 2010</b>							
Partner Country	United States Dollars			% Share			% Change
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2010/2009
<b>World</b>	<b>10,389,645,408</b>	<b>8,502,395,627</b>	<b>10,624,797,675</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24.96</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,435,453,842</b>	<b>1,294,815,954</b>	<b>1,444,172,132</b>	<b>13.82</b>	<b>15.23</b>	<b>13.59</b>	<b>11.53</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>1,257,808,297</b>	<b>932,786,919</b>	<b>1,229,400,384</b>	<b>12.11</b>	<b>10.97</b>	<b>11.57</b>	<b>31.80</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>774,042,581</b>	<b>776,413,948</b>	<b>928,075,993</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>9.13</b>	<b>8.73</b>	<b>19.53</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>577,478,216</b>	<b>533,806,986</b>	<b>713,042,203</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>6.71</b>	<b>33.58</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>605,778,401</b>	<b>484,577,780</b>	<b>620,341,470</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>28.02</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>400,357,423</b>	<b>344,303,694</b>	<b>495,434,413</b>	<b>3.85</b>	<b>4.05</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>43.89</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>507,759,298</b>	<b>367,724,668</b>	<b>459,656,384</b>	<b>4.89</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>362,572,790</b>	<b>239,990,233</b>	<b>378,048,644</b>	<b>3.49</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>57.53</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>492,340,101</b>	<b>306,648,324</b>	<b>370,173,174</b>	<b>4.74</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>3.48</b>	<b>20.72</b>
<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>372,869,499</b>	<b>251,785,886</b>	<b>337,167,336</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>33.91</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>353,531,630</b>	<b>261,044,429</b>	<b>315,023,406</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>20.68</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>193,590,022</b>	<b>170,566,480</b>	<b>218,768,189</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>28.26</b>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>225,820,855</b>	<b>173,829,576</b>	<b>182,350,038</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>4.90</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>140,089,873</b>	<b>122,588,751</b>	<b>181,962,315</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>48.43</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>193,888,092</b>	<b>138,606,956</b>	<b>174,894,005</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>26.18</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>2,496,264,488</b>	<b>2,102,905,043</b>	<b>2,576,287,589</b>	<b>24.03</b>	<b>24.73</b>	<b>24.25</b>	<b>22.51</b>

Source: Global Trade Atlas

## Major Food Imports from Japan in 2010

Product Item	Import Value	Market Share
Fish and Seafood Products	162,131,966	8 percent
Sauces, Condiments & Seasoning Mixes	15,790,522	33 percent
Wheat Or Meslin Flour	8,054,324	11 percent
Snack Foods	4,004,739	2 percent
Fresh Fruits	3,257,303	1 percent
Corn Starch	1,278,718	32 percent

Source: Global Trade Atlas

## **APPENDIX**

**(Unofficial)**

### **Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Standards of Foods Contaminated with Radioactivity**

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It deems appropriate to amend the standards of foods contaminated with radioactivity to protect the consumers.

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 33, Section 41, Section 43, and Section 45 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. The Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 102 B.E. 2529 (1986), Re: Standards of Food Contaminated with Radioactivity, dated 18th November B.E. 2529 (1986) and the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 116 B.E. 2531 (1988), Re: Standards of Food Contaminated with Radioactivity (No. 2), dated 22nd November B.E. 2531 (1988) shall be repealed.

Clause 2. Food contaminated with radioactivity is prescribed food to have standards.

Clause 3. The food under Clause 2 shall be of the standards that the radioactivity may be detected at not exceeding the following limits:

- (1) Iodine-131 (<sup>131</sup>I, Iodine-131), not exceed 100 Becquerel per kilogram (Bq/kg) or Becquerel per liter (Bq/l).
- (2) Total Cesium-134 (<sup>134</sup>Cs, Cesium-134) and Cesium -137 (<sup>137</sup>Cs, Cesium-137), not exceed 500 Bq/kg or Bq/l.

Clause 4. The importer of food under Clause 2 shall provide the certificate stating the level of radioactivity and the place of food production, which is issued by the competent government authority of the country of origin, or other agencies recognized by the government authority of the country of origin, or the government laboratory, or the laboratory designated by or certified by the government authority, or the laboratory, which is certified to comply with the International Standard. The said certificate shall be presented at the port of entry every time when the food is imported.

Clause 5. For the benefits in controlling foods that contaminated with radioactivity as per Clause 2, food categories, places of origin, and countries enforced by this notification shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Clause 6. This notification shall be enforced on the day following the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Notified April 11th, 2011

Jurin Laksanawisit  
Public Health Minister

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 128, Special Part 42 Ngor, dated 11th April 2011)

**(Unofficial)**  
**Notification of the Ministry of Public Health**  
**Re: Prescribed Import Conditions of Foods with Risk from Radioactive Contamination**

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Whereas a disaster had occurred at Honshu Island in Japan causing the leak of radiation from the nuclear power plant to the environment and food contamination, it deems necessary to impose the surveillance measures for radioactive contamination on food imports from Japan and according to Clause 5 of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Standards of Foods Contaminated with Radioactivity dated 11th April B.E. 2554 (2011) prescribed the Minister to notify food categories, places of origin, and countries to effectively control food that contaminated with radioactivity.

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 33, Section 41, Section 43, and Section 45 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. All food produced in Japan: Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Saitama, Tokyo, and Chiba shall be of standards of food contaminated with radioactivity. The radioactivity detection level shall not exceed the limits prescribed in the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Standards of Food Contaminated with Radioactivity, dated 11th April B.E. 2554 (2011). The importer shall present the certificate stating categories of foods, radioactivity level, and the area of food production, which is issued by one of the below competent authorities at the port of entry every time when the food is imported.

- (1) Competent Japanese government authority
- (2) Other agencies recognized by the Competent Japanese government authority
- (3) Government laboratory
- (4) Laboratories designated by or certified by the government authority
- (5) Laboratories, which are certified to comply with the International Standard.

Clause 2. All food imported from Japan that produced in the areas other than the areas prescribed in Clause 1, the certificate of origin issued by the Japanese government authority indicate the areas of cultivation and production is required.

Clause 3. This notification shall be enforced on the day following the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Notified April 11th, 2011

Jurin Laksanawisit

Public Health Minister

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 128, Special Part 42 Ngor, dated 11th April 2011)