

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: TH2024-0073

Report Name: Thai FDA Repeals Certification Requirement for Copies of Verifiable Export Certificates for Imported Foods

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Thai Food and Drug Administration announced on November 29, 2024, that it has repealed the requirement for certification of copies of verifiable export certificates for imported foods, including fresh fruit and vegetable shipments, into Thailand. The implementation took effect immediately on the announcement date.

Per the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Notification No. 386 B.E. 2560 (2017) Re: Prescribing Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Storage of Certain Fresh Vegetables or Fruits and Labeling and MOPH Notification No. 420 B.E. 2563 (2020) Re: Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Food Storage, to allow food imports from the United States into Thailand, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) requires:

- (i) the original certificate; or
- (ii) a copy of the certificate indicating that the specified food production system standards for importing food products are equivalent to or not lower than the criteria set forth by the MOPH Notification No. 386 and 420, as applicable. The copy must include the original seal of a Notary Public, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Oaths, Justice of Peace, or a certification by the certificate-issuing agency.

On November 29, 2024, the TFDA announced that certification of copies is no longer required for food production standard documents or certificates that can be verified online. This applies to documents or certificates verifiable through databases or websites of standard owners, Accreditation Bodies (AB), Certification Bodies (CB), or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) e.g., FSSC, Global G.A.P, BRCGs or IAF (see item 4 of the below announcement).

The new policy eliminates the need for original seals from a Notary Public, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Oaths, Justice of Peace, or certification by the certificate-issuing agency for these verifiable documents. The policy also eliminates the requirement of certificate review and certification of copy of documents or certificates for the embassy or consulate of the producing country in Thailand. To qualify for this exemption, the documents must contain the following verifiable information:

- (1) Name of the food production system standard
- (2) Name and address of the certified food production facility
- (3) Scope of certification
- (4) Date of certification, expiration date, or certification status
- (5) Issuing agency (CB), Accreditation Body (AB), or standard owner

For certificates that cannot be verified online, the copy must still include the original seal of a Notary Public, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Oaths, Justice of Peace, or a certification by the certificate-issuing agency.

The new policy took effect immediately on the announcement date.

-Unofficial Translation-

Announcement of the Food and Drug Administration

Subject: Documents or Certificates of Food Production System Standards for Importing Food Products

According to the two mentioned MOPH Notifications, food importers for sale are required to provide documents or certificates of food production system standards that are equivalent to or not lower than the specified criteria. TFDA has therefore clarified the guidelines for implementation to ensure clarity in the process.

These guidelines aim to ensure that food importers comply with the food production standards stipulated by law, which cover production methods, equipment used in production, and food storage. Importers must provide evidence that the imported food is produced under a system that meets the specified standards.

Adhering to these guidelines will help ensure that imported food meets safety and quality standards as specified, which is part of the country's food safety control system. Importers should study additional details from the full announcement and contact the TFDA if they have any further questions regarding compliance with these guidelines.

Item 1. TFDA announcement regarding Documents or Certificates of Food Production System Standards for Importing Food Products, dated April 19, 2021, is hereby repealed.

Item 2. Documents or certificates of food production system standards for importing food products must specify food production system standards that are equivalent to or not lower than the criteria set in the MOPH Notification, and the certification scope must cover the type of imported food, as follows:

(1) MOPH Notification No. 386 B.E. 2560 (2017) Re: Prescribing Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Storage of Certain Fresh Vegetables or Fruits and Labeling. Examples of food production system standards accepted by the TFDA are published on the website:

<https://moph.cc/GMPpackinghouse>

(2) MOPH Notification No. 420 B.E. 2563 (2020) issued under the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979) on Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Food Storage. Examples of food production system standards accepted by the TFDA are published on the website:

<https://moph.cc/GMP-420>

Item 3. Agencies issuing documents or certificates of food production system standards that are equivalent to or not lower than the criteria specified in the MOPH No. 386 B.E. 2560 (2017) on Prescribing Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Storage of Certain Fresh Vegetables or Fruits and Labeling, as per Item 2 (1), must be one of the following:

(1) The responsible government agency of the producing country

- (2) Other agencies recognized by the responsible government agency of the producing country
- (3) Certification Bodies (CB) accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a member of and recognized by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

For agencies issuing documents or certificates of production system standards that are equivalent to or not lower than the criteria specified in the MOPH Notification No. 420 B.E. 2563 (2020) on Production Methods, Tools and Equipment for Production, and Food Storage, as per Item 2 (2), they must be credible agencies, such as those mentioned in the first paragraph, or agencies with inspection and certification systems that comply with the Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 26-1997).

Item 4. Documents or certificates as per Item 2 must be originals. If originals cannot be used, copies of documents or certificates may be used, certified by the issuing agency, the producer's embassy in Thailand, a government agency, or a state-recognized individual such as a Notary Public.

If certification details on copies of documents or certificates can be verified from the database or website of the standard owner, Accreditation Body (AB), Certification Body (CB), or International Accreditation Forum (IAF), certification of copies or content is not required. The verifiable information should include at least:

- (1) Name of the food production system standard
- (2) Name and address of the certified food production facility
- (3) Scope of certification
- (4) Date of certification, expiration date, or certification status
- (5) Issuing agency (CB), Accreditation Body (AB), or standard owner

For electronic documents or certificates of food production system standards for importing food products, or documents or certificates signed with electronic signatures, procedures should comply with electronic transaction laws.

For documents or certificates in other languages, attach a Thai or English translation certified by one of the following:

- (1) Thai embassy or consulate in the producing country
- (2) Embassy or consulate of the producing country in Thailand
- (3) Person or agency conducting standardized document translation business with certification
- (4) Thai graduate with at least a bachelor's degree in a program using the document's language as the medium of instruction
- (5) University-level professor teaching the document's language at said institution

Item 5. Documents or certificates as per Item 2 must specify the expiration date of the document or certificate, unless there is evidence from the agency certifying the production facility that the document or certificate still meets the criteria in Item 2.

If the agency certifying the production facility does not specify an expiration date for the document or certificate, the validity of the document or certificate shall not exceed 1 year from the date of issuance or the effective date of certification.

Announced on November 27, 2024

Secretary General Surachoke Tangwiwat

Attachments:

[TFDA Announcement in Thai Repeal of certification of copy of export certificate.pdf](#)