

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Update on Thai Food and Drug Administration Requirement for Export Certificates

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

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Report Highlights:

The Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) recently clarified its requirements for copies of export certificates accompanying U.S.-origin imported foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables shipments, into Thailand. To be accepted by TFDA, the copies of export certificates have to (i) be certified by the issuing agencies or (ii) carry the original seal of a U.S. Notary Public, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Oaths, or a Justice of Peace. This report provides an update to the FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual 2023 and FAIRS Annual 2023.

General

To verify Good Manufacturing Practices at import, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) requires that every imported U.S.-origin shipment of food that undergoes a production process (i.e., make, mix, prepare and repacking), as well as shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables, be accompanied by a certificate issued by a U.S. federal or state government agency or a Certification Body (CB) accredited by a member of the International Accreditation Forum.

When a U.S. federal or state government agency issues the certificate (e.g., eCertificate of Free Sale, Certificate of Health and Sanitation, Export Certificate (GMP Certificate)), it must contain the following statement: “the food product(s) is(are) manufactured by U.S. processing plant(s), which is(are) subject to 21CFR part 117.” In case of a CB-issued certificate, there should be a declaration that one of the following food quality assurance systems has been verified: Good Hygiene Practices (GHPs), General Principle of Food Hygiene CXC 1-1969, Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System, General Principle of Food Hygiene CXC 1-1969 Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards, ISO 22000 International Standard Organization/ Global Standard for Food Safety, Primus GFS Global Food Safety Initiative, British Retail Consortium (BRC), SQF Food Safety Code for Manufacturing: Edition 8.1 (1995) and Edition 9 (2020), FSSC 22000 (Food Safety System Certification 22000) or another equivalent principles or systems as recognized by the Thai FDA. For further details of the relevant regulations in Thai, please see [Notification No. 386 Re: Prescription of Production Process, Equipment and Utensil for Production and Storage of Some Fresh Fruits or Vegetables and Labeling](#), and [Notification of Ministry of Public Health No.420 B.E. 2563 \(2020\) Re: Food Production, Processes, Processing Equipment/Utensils and Storage Practices](#).

To allow food imports from the United States into Thailand, TFDA will accept (i) the original certificate or (ii) a copy of the certificate as long as the copy includes the original seal of a U.S. Notary Public, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Oaths, Justice of Peace, or a certification by the certificate-issuing agency. If the certificate does not specify the validity period, TFDA will consider it valid for one year. If the original certificate or a certified/notarized certificate is registered in the TFDA electronic system, TFDA will allow the use of the same original or copy of the certified/notarized certificate for multiple shipments of an identical product by the same importer.

To register a valid (i.e., notarized or certified per aforementioned guidance) copy of a certificate, Thai importers have to submit a request to the TFDA electronic system. TFDA inspectors will be able to retrieve the registered certificate with the same food serial number for the next shipments within the validity period of the original certificate. This procedure will help Thai importers and U.S. exporters to avoid multiple submissions of valid copies of certificates and streamline import clearance at the port of entry. For more further details in Thai, see <https://logistics.fda.moph.go.th/linking-certificate-of-gmp>.

Attachments:

No Attachments.