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Report Name: Comment Opportunity Draft Packing House GMP For All Fresh Produce

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Vegetables, Fresh Fruit, FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) convened a public hearing on October 14, 2026, to review drafted amendments to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Notification on a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) rule for fresh fruit and vegetable packing houses (see: MOPH Notification No. 386 B.E. 2560 (2017), also known as GMP 386). The draft would extend GMP 386 requirements from the 48 types of produce listed in its Annex 1 to all domestic and imported fresh fruits and vegetables, revise the definition of "production," and enter into force one year after publication in the Royal Gazette. If Thailand adopts the draft, all U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable exports would need the certificates. GMP 386 requires sourcing from farms that control agricultural chemical use and labeling lots for traceability. TFDA's initial comment period is open until November 13, 2026.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Public Comment Opportunity

TFDA is accepting comments on the framework and concept of the draft amendments to GMP 386 until November 13, 2026. U.S. stakeholders may respond to the online questionnaire (available in Thai only) or share concerns with FAS Bangkok at AgBangkok@usda.gov by the same date. This is the first of two hearing rounds. TFDA reported to FAS Bangkok that the agency will hold a second hearing on the amended draft Notification text. Thailand authorities have also informed FAS Bangkok that the government will notify the draft to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Background

GMP 386 currently covers 48 types of fresh produce that TFDA considers at high risk of agricultural chemical contamination. Thailand notified the measure to the WTO as G/SPS/N/THA/239 in November 2016. MOPH published 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, in the Royal Gazette on August 25, 2017. TFDA began full enforcement on August 25, 2019.

GMP 386 requires covered packing houses (sorting and packing operations) to:

- Source raw produce from farms that control agricultural chemical use and keep a farmer registry
- Use food additives safely and handle, equip and store produce hygienically
- Identify and label each lot so officials can trace it back to its source

Annex 1 of GMP 386 lists the covered products, including apples, grapes, strawberries, oranges and mandarins, pears, potatoes, carrots, broccoli, cabbage and mushrooms.

For imports, TFDA accepts packing house certificates issued under GMP 386 or a recognized equivalent scheme (such as GLOBALG.A.P., SQF or BRCGS), or an official certificate from the exporting country's government. For fresh produce outside Annex 1, TFDA currently applies import controls and maximum residue level (MRL) testing but does not require a packing house GMP certificate.

TFDA Rationale

TFDA aims to apply a single GMP 386 standard to all fresh produce to make nationwide oversight of packing houses more efficient and effective.

TFDA currently regulates packing houses for produce outside Annex 1 under the general food hygiene GMP, MOPH Notification No. 420 B.E. 2563 (2020) Re: Food Production Processes, Processing Equipment/ Utensils and Storage Practices (GMP 420). TFDA states that GMP 420 does not specifically control agricultural chemical residues from raw material sources, and its audit checklist does not classify residue control as a major defect. GMP 420 also does not require traceability lot codes or traceability labels. According to TFDA, this gap creates unequal standards among packing houses and forces inspectors to use two audit checklists when one facility packs both listed and unlisted produce.

Key Provisions of the Draft

Table 1. Thailand: Proposed Changes to GMP 386

Provision	Current GMP 386 (2017)	Proposed amendment
Product scope	48 listed groups of high-risk fresh fruits and vegetables (Annex 1)	All fresh fruits and vegetables
Definition of "production"	Sorting and packing of produce received from others, or of own produce under defined conditions; no explicit point-of-sale exclusion	Sorting and packing of fresh produce received from others, or of own produce where the operator uses a building or shed for sorting and packing; excludes sorting and packing at the point of sale
Entry into force	August 25, 2018 (published in the Royal Gazette on August 25, 2017)	One year after the day following publication in the Royal Gazette

Public Hearing Questionnaire

Thailand runs public hearings on draft regulations in two rounds. In the first round, the current hearing, TFDA seeks comments on the framework and concept of the measure. In the second round, TFDA will hold a hearing on the draft Notification text itself, and the relevant Thai authority will notify trading partners through the WTO.

- ! To submit comments and review more information on the framework and concept of the measure, please visit: https://food.fda.moph.go.th/press-release/law-gmp69 (available in Thai).

The hearing document identifies the affected parties as packers (producers), growers, collectors, importers, sellers, certification bodies, government agencies that regulate fresh produce, and consumers. The online questionnaire asks respondents to agree or disagree with each of the three proposed changes and invites optional written comments. Foreign stakeholders, including importers and trading partners, may respond.

Respondents select one category:

- Fresh produce sorters and packers (producers)
- Farmers or growers of fresh produce
- Fresh produce collectors/consolidators
- Fresh produce importers
- Government agencies regulating fresh produce
- Food production system inspection/certification bodies (CBs)
- Fresh produce retailers/sellers
- Consumers/consumer organizations
- Other (specify)

The questionnaire asks:

1. Name of organization
2. Do you agree with expanding the scope of GMP 386 to cover all fresh fruits and vegetables? (Agree / Disagree / Comment)
3. Do you agree with the revised definition of "production" described above? (Agree / Disagree / Comment)
4. Do you agree that the Notification should enter into force one year after the day following its publication in the Royal Gazette? (Agree / Disagree / Comment)

Implications for U.S. Exports

The draft rule would extend the packing house certificate requirement from Annex 1 products to every U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable that ships to Thailand. GMP 386 already covers U.S. apples, grapes, oranges, pears, strawberries and potatoes. The draft rule would expand coverage to other U.S. products such as cherries, blueberries and other berries, stone fruit, avocados, onions, lettuce and other leafy greens not listed in Annex 1. Exporters of these products would need packing house certificates for the first time. Those certificates would have to show farm sourcing controls, a farmer registry and lot traceability.

The hearing document states that TFDA would accept equivalent schemes and official government certificates for newly covered products. However, it does not identify which schemes qualify or the criteria for equivalence. U.S. stakeholders may seek clarification from the TFDA if it will accept existing schemes, such as GLOBALG.A.P., SQF and BRCGS, and to publish its equivalence criteria. Stakeholders may also wish to comment on whether one year gives U.S. supply chains enough time to comply.

U.S. stakeholders and Thai partners can submit comments through the questionnaire, or share concerns with FAS Bangkok, by November 13, 2026.

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End of Report.

Attachments:

No Attachments.