

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Revised Notification on Required Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages

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Report Highlights:

On September 23, 2020, the Thai Excise Department published a revised notification on quality standard for imported alcoholic. The amendments highlight the requirement of an equivalency standard for method of analysis and details the required statements on the certificate of analysis (COA) and export certificate.

Revised Notification on Required Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages

The Thai Excise Department published revised requirements on the importation of alcoholic beverages on September 23, 2020, which amended a previous notification published in June 2019. The June 2019 notification imposed limits on several substances and outlined the method of analysis for imported alcoholic beverages, including beer, wine, and sparkling wine made from grapes, fermented liquor and distilled liquor, in order to obtain an import permit. The import permits obtained from meeting the required standard are valid for 3 years. More details on the June 2019 notification can be found in the GAIN Report no. TH9080 Re: New Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages in the following links:

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/thailand-new-quality-standard-imported-alcoholic-beverages>.

The September 2020 notification made the following revisions from the June 2019 notification and went into force the following day after publication:

- 1) The method of analysis complying with ISO/IEC17025 or recognized by international or regional organization standards for each specified substance shall be considered as equivalent to prescribed testing method attached to the notification. The Deputy General shall determine whether a submitted testing methodology can be considered as equivalent to the one outlined in the notification. An example of a regional organization standard that has been accepted by the Thai Excise Department is the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) for French wines.
- 2) A statement attesting the non-permissible substance by the manufacturing country in alcoholic beverages production is required to be specified in the COA or export certificate.
- 3) The manufacturing country is required to confirm and specify in the COA or export certificate for substances allowed to be used in the manufacturing country but not required to be tested under the manufacturing country's standards that those substances do not exceed the maximum limit stipulated in the regulation. The Excise Department does accept a statement on the COA or a letter from the government of the manufacturing country attesting that the non-tested substances do not exceed the maximum limit set in the regulation. Otherwise, the product needs to be tested by Thai Excise Department lab or a certified government lab.

Below is an unofficial translation:

Notification of the Excise Department Prescribing Quality Standard for Imported Liquor (NO.2)

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By virtue of the provision of Section 154 Paragraph two of the Excise Act, B.E. 2560 (2017), with the provisions of Clause 5 (2) and Clause 8 (4) of the Ministerial Regulation Liquor Importation Permission B.E. 2560 (2017) as amended by Ministerial Regulation Liquor Importation Permission (No. 2) B.E. 2562 (2019), the Director General of the Excise Department issues this Notification, prescribing the quality standard for imported liquor as follows:

Clause 1. Repeal the quality standards of beer, wine, and sparkling wine made from grapes, and fermented liquor and distilled spirits as per the attachment of the Excise Department Notification Re: Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages dated June 5th, 2019, and replace with the attachment of this Notification instead.

Clause 2. Any in process implementation shall be completed and complied to the Excise Department Notification Re: Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages dated June 5th, 2019. Any further action after the announcement date shall follow this Notification.

Any action taken in pursuance to the Excise Department Notification Re: Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages dated June 5th, 2019, and was carried out before the announcement date of this Notification, shall be proceeded until the end of the term, conditions or cancellation or changing of order.

Clause 3. This Notification shall be effective one day after the announcement date.

Announced on the 23rd day of September B.E. 2563 (2020)

Patchara Anuntasilpa

Director General of the Excise Department

Attachment

Standard of Analysis of Beer

Beer shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives, and contaminants, which are specified below, by using the test method of Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) or the equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used.
2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Methyl alcohol	50 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
2	Ethyl carbamate	50 ppb	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Sulfur Dioxide	30 ppm	AOAC 27.1.39

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19
3	Copper	1.5 ppm	AOAC 28.1.23
4	Ferrous	1.5 ppm	AOAC 28.1.24

5. The method of analysis being considered as equivalent shall meet one of the below conditions:
 - 5.1 Certified by ISO/IEC17025.
 - 5.2 Accepted by international or regional organization standard.
 - 5.3 For other test methods, the Director-General shall determine whether they are considered as equivalent method of analysis and product sampling test.

The method of analysis that shall be considered as equivalent needs to comply with the following requirements:

- 1) All specified substances and benchmark levels in accordance with the beer standard as imposed by the Director-General.
- 2) In case all required tested substances do not meet specified items as stipulated in the notification, the implementation shall follow the guideline:

2.1) A non-permissible substance by the manufacturer's country shall be specified in the COA or export certificate that such substance is not allowed to be used in the beer production by manufacturing country

2.2) A list of substances allowed by the manufacturing country but not required as the standard testing in the manufacturer's country. The manufacturing country must be able to confirm and specify in the COA or export certificate that the substance does not exceed the beer quality standard stipulated by the Director-General. Otherwise, it is necessary to send a product sample to be tested at one of the following laboratories:

2.2.1) Laboratory of the Excise Department

2.2.2) Laboratory of "Goods and Exhibit Analysis Group" of the Excise Department or other agencies' laboratories that meet the Excise Department's laboratory standard (Good Laboratory Practice/Excise Department: GLP/EXD) or higher standard that is registered with the Excise Department as prescribed by the Director-General.

Standard of Analysis for Wine, Sparkling Wine made from Grapes, and Fermented Liquor

Wine and Sparkling Wine made from grapes, and fermented liquor shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives, and contaminants, which are specified below, by using the test method of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) and the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or an equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or an equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used.
2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC and ASTM or an equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Aldehyde (Acetaldehyde)	160 ppm	AOAC 26.1.24
2	Methyl alcohol	420 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
3	Ethyl carbamate	200 ppm	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Sulfur dioxide	400 ppm	AOAC 27.1.39
2	Benzoic acid or salt of benzoic acid	250 ppm	AOAC 37.1.62A
3	Sorbic acid or salt of sorbic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 28.2.02

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19
3	Ferrocyanide	Not Found	ASTM D 4374

5. The method of analysis being considered as equivalent shall meet one of the below conditions:
 - 5.1 Certified by ISO/IEC17025.
 - 5.2 Accepted by international or regional organization standard.
 - 5.3 For other test methods, the Director-General shall determine whether they are considered as equivalent method of analysis and product sampling test.

The method of analysis that shall be considered as equivalent needs to comply with the following requirements:

- 1) All specified substances and benchmark level in accordance with the wine standard as imposed by the Director-General.
- 2) In case all required tested substances do not meet specified items as stipulated in the notification, the implementation shall follow the guideline:
 - 2.1) A non-permissible substance by the manufacturer's country shall be specified in the COA or export certificate that such substance is not allowed to be used in the wine, sparkling wine, and fermented Liquor production by manufacturing country.
 - 2.2) A list of substances allowed by the manufacturing country but not required as the standard testing in the manufacturer's country. The country of origin must be able to confirm and specify in the COA or export certificate that the substance does not exceed the quality standard stipulated by the Director-General. Otherwise, it is necessary to send a product sample to be tested at one of the following laboratories:
 - 2.2.1) Laboratory of the Excise Department
 - 2.2.2) Laboratory of "Goods and Exhibit Analysis Group" of the Excise Department or other agencies' laboratories that meet the Excise Department's laboratory standard (Good Laboratory Practice/Excise Department: GLP/EXD) or higher standard that is registered with the Excise Department as prescribed by the Director-General.

Standard of Analysis for Distilled Liquor

Distilled liquor shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives, and contaminants, which are specified below, by using the test method of Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) or an equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or an equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used.
2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or an equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Fusel oil	5,500 ppm	AOAC 26.1.28
2	Furfural	50 ppm	AOAC 26.1.32
3	Aldehyde (Acetaldehyde) 3.1 not exceeding 40 degrees 3.2 exceeding 40 degrees	160 ppm 220 ppm	AOAC 26.1.24
4	Methyl alcohol	1,000 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
5	Ethyl carbamate	400 ppb	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Benzoic acid or salt of benzoic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 37.1.62A
2	Sorbic acid or salt of sorbic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 28.2.02

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not Exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19

5. The method of analysis being considered as equivalent shall meet one of the below conditions:
 - 5.1 Certified by ISO/IEC17025.
 - 5.2 Accepted by international or regional organization standard.
 - 5.3 For other test methods, the Director-General shall determine whether they are considered as equivalent method of analysis and product sampling test.

The method of analysis that shall be considered as equivalent needs to comply with the following requirements:

- 1) All specified substances and benchmark level in accordance with the liquor standard as imposed by the Director-General.
- 2) In case all required tested substances do not meet specified items as stipulated in the notification, the implementation shall follow the guideline:
 - 2.1) A non-permissible substance by the manufacturer's country shall be specified in the COA or export certificate that such substance is not allowed to be used in the distilled spirit production by manufacturing country.
 - 2.2) A list of substances allowed by the manufacturing country but not required as the standard testing in the manufacturer's country. The manufacturing country must be able to confirm and specify in the COA or export certificate that the substance does not exceed the quality standard stipulated by the Director-General. Otherwise, it is necessary to send a product sample for analysis at one of the following laboratories:
 - 2.2.1) Laboratory of the Excise Department
 - 2.2.2) Laboratory of "Goods and Exhibit Analysis Group" of the Excise Department or other agencies' laboratories that meet the Excise Department laboratory standard (Good Laboratory Practice/Excise Department: GLP/EXD) or higher standard that is registered with the Excise Department as prescribed by the Director-General.

End of the Report.

Attachments:

No Attachments.