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Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Name: Draft Revisions to Standard and Definition of Fresh Plain Fluid Cow's Milk and Recombined Milk Notified

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: Dairy and Products, FAIRS Subject Report, WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On October 28, 2026, Thailand notified the WTO SPS and TBT Committees of its intent to limit the scope of products defined as “cow’s milk” and “recombined milk.” This report summarizes the proposed amendments and includes an unofficial translation of the draft Ministerial notification. The final date for comments is December 27, 2026. Stakeholders should conduct their own review to assess any market or regulatory impacts on their business.

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

Summary

Thailand introduced amendments to existing regulations that would revise the standard and definition for fluid cow's milk and recombined milk. Thailand submitted the following notifications with identical content to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as G/SPS/N/THA/817 and G/TBT/N/THA/829 with a final comment period of December 27, 2026. This report provides an unofficial translation of the Ministry of Public Health draft notification that accompanied the WTO notifications and links to the WTO announcements. In the WTO notifications, Thailand cited existing revisions to relevant standards and definitions dating to 2013 and earlier.

WTO Notification Date	Deadline for WTO Member Comment Submission	Thailand's Enforcement Date
October 28, 2026	December 27, 2026	One day following the announcement in the Royal Gazette

Thailand's proposal revises name designations, definitions, and processing requirements for "fresh plain fluid cow's milk" and "recombined milk" to reflect the raw materials used in the following way:

- **"Fresh plain fluid cow's milk"**: this product comes only from cows. The standard also expands the description of potential processing methods to include sterilization, ultra-high temperature (UHT) and equivalent treatments to reflect current industry practices.
- **"Recombined milk"**: this product is made from milk powder or by recombining separated cow's milk components, such as whey, casein, and lactose. The proposed standard requires recombined milk to meet quality standards equivalent to those for fresh plain fluid cow's milk or plain fluid cow's milk.

Stakeholders should independently review the regulation to determine its potential market and regulatory implications for their operations.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION[1]

(Draft) Notification of the Ministry of Public Health
(No. …) B.E. ....
Issued by virtue of the Food Act B.E. 2522
Re: Cow's Milk (No.3)

It is deemed appropriate to revise the definitions of fresh plain fluid cow's milk and recombined milk to ensure that consumers receive accurate labelling information and to enhance the efficiency of consumer safety protection.

By the virtue of provisions of Section 5 in the first phrase, and 6(10) of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. This notification shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette onwards.

Clause 2. The definitions of fresh plain fluid cow's milk and recombined milk in Clause 3 of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 350) B.E. 2556 (2013), Re: Cow's Milk, dated 26th June 2556 (2013), shall be repealed and replaced with the following texts:

> "Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk" mean products which are made from raw milk that drawn from the cow and is not in separation or added by any substances, except for adjustment of milk fat by separation; and being pasteurized ~~not above 80°C; milk fat content not less than 3.2% by weight~~, sterilized, U.H.T. or other equivalent processes to above-mentioned.
>
> "Recombined milk" mean products obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow's milk so as to obtain the inherent to that characteristics of cow's milk as stipulated in Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk, Plain Fluid cow's milk or Condensed milk and cow's milk or other composition of milk may be added as ingredients wherein the quality or standards of recombined milk shall be equivalent to those of fresh plain fluid cow's milk or plain fluid cow's milk."

Clause 3. The text in Clause 4(1) of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 350) B.E. 2556 (2013), Re: Cow's Milk, dated 26th June 2556 (2013), shall be repealed and replaced by the following text:

> "(1) Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk. There are 3 kinds can be classified as follows:
> (1.1) Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk form raw whole milk
> (1.2) Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk form raw Partly skimmed milk
> (1.3) Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk from raw Skimmed milk"

[1] The underlined and cross-out formatting in the following text reflects Thailand's Food and Drug Administration's comparison of the proposed regulation with the existing one. Underlined sections correspond to newly proposed text, while crossed-out sections would be removed from the existing regulations per this proposal.

Clause 4. The text in Clause 19(1)(1.1) and (1.4) of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 350) B.E. 2556 (2013), Re: Cow's Milk, dated 26th June 2556 (2013), shall be repealed and replaced by the following text:

"(1.1) Fresh Plain Fluid cow's milk, as stipulated in Clause 4(1), is prescribed to be named as follows:

(1.1.1) "..... fresh plain fluid cow's milk" (The space provided is for specifying the heat treatment process according to No. 6 for full cream
(1.1.2) "..... partly skimmed fresh plain fluid cow's milk" or "partly skimmed fresh plain fluid cow's milk ……." (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for partly skimmed milk.
(1.1.3) "……. skimmed fresh plain fluid cow's milk" or "skimmed fresh plain fluid cow's milk ……." (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for skimmed milk.

(1.1/1) Plain Fluid cow's milk, as stipulated in Clause 4(1), is prescribed to be named as follows:

(1.1/1 .1) "..... plain fluid cow's milk" (The space provided is for specifying the heat treatment process according to No. 6 for full cream
(1.1/1 .2) "..... partly skimmed plain fluid cow's milk" or "partly skimmed plain fluid cow's milk ……." (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for partly skimmed milk.
(1.1/1 .3) "……. skimmed plain fluid cow's milk" or "skimmed plain fluid cow's milk ……." (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for skimmed milk.

(1.4) Recombined milk, as stipulated in Clause 4(5) , is prescribed to be named as follows:

(1.4.1) "..... recombined milk" (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for recombined whole milk accompanied by the text "obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow's milk" or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.2) "..... recombined partly skimmed milk" (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for recombined partly skimmed milk accompanied by the text "obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow's milk" or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.3) "..... recombined skimmed milk" (designate the heat treatment process as stipulated in Clause 6 in the blank), for recombined skimmed milk accompanied by the text "obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow's milk" or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.4) "Recombined unsweetened condensed milk" for recombined unsweetened condensed whole milk accompanied by the text "obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow's milk" or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.

(1.4.5) “Recombined sweetened condensed milk” for recombined sweetened condensed whole milk accompanied by the text “obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow’s milk” or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.6) “Recombined unsweetened condensed partly skimmed milk” for recombined unsweetened condensed partly skimmed milk accompanied by the text “obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow’s milk” or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.7) “Recombined sweetened condensed partly skimmed milk” for recombined sweetened condensed partly skimmed milk accompanied by the text “obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow’s milk” or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.8) “Recombined unsweetened condensed skimmed milk” for recombined unsweetened condensed skimmed milk accompanied by the text “obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow’s milk” or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.
(1.4.9) “Recombined sweetened condensed skimmed milk” for recombined sweetened condensed skimmed milk accompanied by the text “obtained from milk powder or from recombining separated components of cow’s milk” or any other text of the same meaning, as part of the food name.

Clause 5. Food labels of cow's milk that do not comply with the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 350) B.E. 2556 (2013), Re: Cow's Milk, dated 26 June B.E. 2556 (2013), as amended by the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 406) B.E. 2562 (2019) issued under the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), Re: Cow's Milk (No. 2), dated 16 May B.E. 2562 (2019), as amended by this Notification, may continue to be sold under the following conditions:

(1) Comply with the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 350) B.E. 2556 (2013), Re: Cow's Milk, dated 26 June B.E. 2556 (2013);
(2) For a period of not exceeding one year from the date this Notification comes into force.

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Attachments:

GSPSNTHA817 MOPH Notification Re Cow's Milk (No. 3).pdf

GTBTNTHA829 MOPH Notification Re Cow's Milk (No. 3).pdf