

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 22,2020

Report Number: JA2020-0086

Report Name: Japan Opens Public Comments Period to Approve DMDC as Wine Additive

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Wine, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Prepared By: Suguru Sato

Approved By: Mariya Rakhovskaya

Report Highlights:

The National Tax Agency of Japan invites public comments on the use of dimethyl dicarbonate, (DMDC) to preserve wine and “fruit wine” products. Comments need to be submitted in Japanese. The comment period will close on May 18, 2020.

General Description

In Japan, food additives for alcoholic beverages require two consecutive approvals. First, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Food Safety Commission carry out a science-based food safety review of the proposed food additive. Then, for substances to be used in alcoholic products, the National Tax Agency (NTA) reviews the adequacy of the proposed food additive for the preservation of alcoholic products.

In March 2019, MHLW completed its safety review of dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) and proposed its designation as a food additive ([JA9029](#)). In November 2019, MHLW notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the proposed approval (<http://spsims.wto.org/en/RegularNotifications/View/153846?FromAllNotifications=True>). On January 15, 2020, Japan officially designated DMDC as an approved food additive with the specifications listed below (<https://www.ffcr.or.jp/en/tenka/standards-for-use/standards-for-use-of-food-additives.html>):

- Nonalcoholic beverages (except mineral water) - 0.25gram (g)/kilogram (kg) as maximum limit
- Fruit wine (except wine) - 0.25g/kg as maximum limit
- Wine - 0.20g/kg as maximum limit

Now, to allow the use of DMDC in wine, NTA has to approve the substance as adequate for wine preservation. On April 16, 2020, NTA opened the public comment period for DMDC as a substance that can be miscible with alcoholic beverages for preservation (<https://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=410020017&Mode=0>). The comment period will close on May 18, 2020.

Comments must be submitted in Japanese and contain the following information:

1. Title: Please write the title as “「酒類の保存のため物品を混和することができる酒類の品目等を定める等の件」に対する意見” (Comments on “the issue of alcoholic beverages for which substances may be mixed for preservation”)
2. Name (personal or company name with the name of the point of contact)
3. Address
4. Telephone number
5. Comments with rationale: Please specify the section of the proposal that comments address.

Please note that NTA may release submitted comments to the public, aside from personally identifiable information, such as name and contact information.

Interested parties must submit comments in one of three ways:

1. Electronically - Comments can be sent via the “e-Gov” system that enables electronic submission of comments on regulatory proposals by the Japanese Government. The site for commenting on the proposed regulatory policy for DMDC as the substance that can be miscible with alcoholic beverages for preservation is <https://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=410020017&Mode=0> (in Japanese).

2. Mail - Comments can be mailed to:

Evaluation and Planning Officer

Taxation Department

National Tax Agency

3-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku

Tokyo 100-8979, Japan

On the envelope, please note “「酒類の保存のため物品を混和することができる酒類の品目等を定める等の件」に対する意見” (Comments on “the issue of alcoholic beverages for which substances may be mixed for the preservation”).

3. Fax - Comments can be faxed to +81-3-3581-4182.

References

JA9029 - THE 220th CONFERENCE FOR PROMOTION OF FOOD IMPORT FACILITATION

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/japan-japan-220th-food-safety-group>

Japan's WTO Notification

<http://spsims.wto.org/en/RegularNotifications/View/153846?FromAllNotifications=True>

Japan's April 2020 notification on the amendment to the previous WTO notification

<http://spsims.wto.org/en/ModificationNotifications/View/164183?FromAllNotifications=True>

MHLW's official announcement of the approval of DMDC as food additive (in Japanese)

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000584633.pdf>

Attachments:

No Attachments.