

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 03,2020

**Report Number:** TH2020-0151

**Report Name:** Thai FDA Announced Ban of Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos on Imported Food Products

**Country:** Thailand

**Post:** Bangkok

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed, Avocado, Canned Deciduous Fruit, Dried Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Kiwifruit, Raisins, Stone Fruit, Strawberries, FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Annual Country Report, FAIRS Subject Report, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative, Agricultural Situation, Oilseeds and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications

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**Report Highlights:**

The revised Notification on Food Containing Pesticide Residues was published in the Royal Gazette on November 2, 2020, establishing zero MRLs for paraquat and chlorpyrifos on imported food products with an effective date of June 1, 2021.

On November 2, 2020, the Ministry of Public Health published the Notification on Food Containing Pesticide Residues in the Royal Gazette to ban paraquat and chlorpyrifos residues on imported food products. The maximum residue limits (MRLs) of paraquat and chlorpyrifos will be zero on all products starting on June 1, 2021. This action is the latest action taken to comply with the National Hazardous Substance Committee’s vote to ban the two chemicals on November 27, 2019. The Ministry of Industry published its notification to ban the domestic use of paraquat and chlorpyrifos in agricultural production on May 15, 2020, with an effective date of June 1, 2020 (please see [TH2020-0057: Thailand Moves Forward with Ban on Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos, May 2020](#)).

The notification stated that a Limit of Detection (LOD) will be used to determine the presence of paraquat and chlorpyrifos residues on import food products in the following three food categories: (1) food grains, (2) fresh vegetables and fruits, and (3) meat, milk, and eggs. The LOD is set at no more than 0.005 mg/kg for both paraquat and chlorpyrifos on imported fresh vegetables and fruits, meat, milk, and eggs (Table 1). For imported grains, the LOD will be no more than 0.02 mg/kg for paraquat and 0.01 mg/kg for chlorpyrifos residues.

**Table 1: Thai FDA’s LOD for Imported Food Products**

Food Categories	Chemical Residue Limits (mg/kg)	
	Paraquat <sup>1</sup>	Chlorpyrifos <sup>2</sup>
Grains and Beans	0.02	0.01
Fresh Vegetables and Fruits	0.005	0.005
Meat, Milk, and Eggs	0.005	0.005

1: Includes paraquat dichloride and paraquat methosulfate

2: Includes chlorpyrifos-methyl

The ban will affect several domestic industries as Thailand relies, almost entirely, on the importation of wheat grains, soybeans, and soybean meal. As a result, wheat flour milling, soybean oil processing, and international trading of fruit and vegetable products could face disruptions in their supply chains once the ban goes into effect. In addition, disruption in these industries could negatively impact their customers’ supply chains, such as bakery manufacturers, hotel and hospitality industries, and food processors. Post estimates that, if the ban impacts only food industries, then the ban will impact U.S. \$4.5 billion of Thailand’s industrial output. A breakdown of the estimated value of each sector facing disruptions is the following: U.S. \$1.3 billion for wheat-based food industry, U.S. \$1.5 billion for soybean oil processing and soybean-based feed and food industry, U.S. \$300 million for hotel and hospitality industry, and U.S. \$1.4 billion for trading of imported fruit and vegetable products (Please see [TH2020-0075, Economic Impact of the Ban on Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos on Thai Industries](#)).

The ban will affect the imports of several agricultural commodities whose imports were valued at U.S. \$3.1 billion in 2019. The wheat and soybean industries, importing around U.S. \$2.1 billion worth of soybeans and wheat a year, have been working with their suppliers to obtain non-detectable certificates that comply with the LOD levels. Many suppliers in the United States, accounting for around 40 percent of total wheat and soybean imports, can issue these non-detectable certificates. However, flour mills plan to purchase and build up their inventory before the effective date from suppliers who cannot issue these non-detectable certificates as the shipments arriving before June 1, 2021, will have to meet MRLs under the old regulation.

End of report.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.