

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 07,2020

Report Number: TH2020-0043

Report Name: Thailand Notified WTO on Its Proposed Ban on Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, 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, Avocado, Canned Deciduous Fruit, Dried Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Kiwifruit, Raisins, Stone Fruit, Strawberries, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products, Vegetables, Tree Nuts

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Report Highlights:

Thailand notified WTO of the Ministry of Industry's intention to ban Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos for production, importation, exportation, and possession. Since these two substances are still used in the United States, the ban, if enforced, will affect the exports of agricultural commodities, especially soybeans and wheat, into Thailand.

Executive Summary

On April 1, 2020, Thailand notified WTO of the Ministry of Industry's intention to re-categorize Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos from Category 3 (allowable but subject to permission) to Category 4 (prohibited for production, importation, exportation, and possession) and to enforce the revised list of hazardous substances on June 1, 2020 (G/TBT/N/THA/567). The translation of the draft notification is enclosed (Appendix).

The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), a national SPS focal point of the Thai government and an agency of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), submitted the draft notification to the WTO.

The National Hazardous Substance Committee (NHSC) assigned Department of Agriculture (DOA) under Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), to develop measures to alleviate the economic cost of the ban on all stakeholders. The DOA was supposed to submit their findings by March 26, 2020 (4 months from the date of the NHSC determination). There has been no announcement on the status of that report.

The importers are concerned that the ban could affect the importation of U.S. wheat and soybeans into Thailand as the two substances, especially Paraquat, are still used in the United States. In 2019, U.S. traders exported U.S.\$ 630 million worth of soybeans and wheat into Thailand.

(Unofficial Translation)

Appendix

Notification of Ministry of Industry on List of Hazardous Substances No. ____ B.E. ____ (A.D. ____)

By virtue of Section 5 paragraph two and Section 18 paragraph two of the Hazardous Substance Act B.E. 2535, Minister of Industry and by the opinion of the National Hazardous Substance Act issues the notification as following:

Article 1 Cancel the list of Hazardous Substance as presented in the Annex of Ministry of Industry Notification on List of Hazardous Substances B.E. 2556, dated 28 August 2013, and replace the following list in the Annex:

List 1 which is under supervision of Department of Agriculture

List 1.1. Restricted items No. 53 chlorpyrifos, No. 54 chlorpyrifos-methyl, No. 352 paraquat, No. 353 paraquat dichloride, and No. 354 paraquat dichloride [bis (methyl sulfate)]

Article 2 Manufacturers, importers, exporter and possessors of hazardous substance in category 4 under this notification that have operations before effective date of this notification are to act in accordance with order of authorized officials within a determined period.

Article 3 This notification is in effective on June 1, 2020.

Announced on Date Month.... Year

Minister of Industry

A List of Hazardous Substances Annexed to the Notification of Ministry of Industry on List of Hazardous Substances (No. ___)

List 1 which is under supervision of Department of Agriculture

Item No.	Hazardous Substance	CAS No.	Category
53	chlorpyrifos	2921-88-2	4
54	chlorpyrifos-methyl	5598-13-0	4
352	paraquat	4685-14-7	4
353	paraquat dichloride	1910-42-5	4
354	paraquat dichloride [bis (methyl sulfate)]	2074-50-2	4

End of Report.

Attachments:

No Attachments.