

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: June 02,2020

Report Number: TH2020-0079

Report Name: Updates on Thailand Implements Pesticide Residues Monitoring on Fresh Produce at the Port of Entry as of 1 June 2020

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Sukanya Sirikeratikul

Approved By: Russell Nicely

Report Highlights:

This report updates details of Thailand's pesticide residues monitoring measures on fresh produce by the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as of June 1, 2020.

Updates on Thailand Implements Pesticide Residues Monitoring on Fresh Produce at the Port of Entry as of 1 June 2020

There are some updates and corrections to [Thailand Implements Stringent Pesticide Residues Monitoring on Fresh Produce at the Port of Entry Report](#) published on May 21, 2020 as below:

Clarification on the Guidelines

The guidelines were issued to inform importers and exporters of fresh produce on how the Thai FDA's Import and Export inspection Division will enforce their pesticide residues monitoring program and testing protocol in relation to the Ministry of Public Health Notification No. 387 Re: Pesticide Residues in Foods. (additional reference: Section III Pesticides and Other Contaminants of [Thailand: FAIRS Country Report](#)) The Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has had a testing protocol in place for a while but considered it an internal practice. In the past, the testing was based on a random sampling of fresh produce shipments imported to Thailand. If any shipment tested positive, the Thai FDA notified the importer for legal action (the importer had to pay a fine for the violation) and the following three shipments of the same product by the importer from the same exporter would be held and tested for pesticide residue.

How to Obtain Information on Specific Shipments

The best way to get information on a shipment identified in the "Very High Risk" list (including shipment date, details, importer name, etc) is to contact the Thai FDA's Import and Export Inspection Division at inspection@fda.moph.go.th.

How to Continue Exporting if Found on the "Very High Risk" List

Exporters whose names are listed on the "Very High Risk" list can keep exporting fresh produce to Thailand after the implementation date of June 15, 2020, by supplying a certificate of analysis (COA) of the pesticide residue in question to the Thai FDA for each shipment. This method will keep a shipment from being detained but will not delist the exporter's name. (Note: for exporters whose shipments are found containing pesticide residues above the listed MRLs after January 24, 2020, will need to submit a COA of 134 substances for every subsequent shipment until they are delisted for the list.) If a shipment does not have a COA and the Thai FDA has not been notified about delisting (see next section), the Thai FDA will collect the samples for testing at a government lab. The purpose of this testing is only to release the shipment and not for delisting purposes.

How to be Delisted from the “Very High Risk” List

Exporters whose names are listed on the table under “Very High Risk” can be delisted by having three consecutive shipments of the listed product tested in country and found to be compliant with the regulation. The exporter or the importer must notify the Thai FDA that they wish to be delisted prior to having their shipments tested. If the Thai FDA is not notified, then any shipment of a listed product from an exporter on the “Very High Risk” list that is cleared after testing by the Thai FDA will not be counted towards the three consecutive shipments for delisting. After being notified, the Thai FDA will collect the samples for testing at a government lab, a government assigned lab, or a private laboratory complying with ISO/IEC 17025. The exporters or importers will be responsible for the lab testing expense. Submitting a COA of the 134 substances is insufficient for delisting.

Instances of Noncompliance Prior to 2017 Removed from the “Very High Risk” List

The Thai Food and Drug Administration has updated the table for “Very High Risk” group using 2017 as the cutoff year for noncompliant exporters instead of 2014. Any instances of noncompliance prior to 2017 has been removed from the “Very High Risk” list.

Additional Corrections to the FAS Gain Report

Additional corrections to the [FAS Gain Report on Thailand Implements Stringent Pesticide Residue Monitoring on Fresh Produce at the Port of Entry](#) published on May 20, 2020, on the monitoring measures of “High Risk Group” and “Low Risk” are highlighted below:

Group 2: High Risk Group

The Thai FDA’s Import-Export Inspection Division has conducted a pesticide-testing program on fresh produce for fiscal year 2019-2020 and below is the list of fresh produce that often contained pesticide residues 20 percent above the standard.

Fresh fruits: cherries, oranges, strawberry, grapes, and dragon fruits

Fresh vegetables: sweet peas, celery, coriander, Chinese kale, and spinach

The above 10 product types are classified as “High Risk.” In order to import products listed under this category, a Thai FDA officer at the port of entry will take a sample from

every shipment to be tested at a government laboratory. The Thai FDA will be responsible for the lab testing expense.

The shipment will not be detained and can be commercially marketed. If the importer does not want the shipment to be tested in Thailand, the importer must present a Certificate of Analysis (COA) issued by a government laboratory of the exporting country, a government assigned lab, or a private laboratory complying with ISO/IEC 17025 for every shipment. The 134 pesticides that will be tested are listed in the appendix. **If the test result is found to be noncompliant with the regulation, then the Thai FDA will place the exporter's name and the type of product on the "Very High Risk" list. It only takes one instance of being found noncompliant for the exporter's name and the type of product to be added to the "Very High Risk" list.**

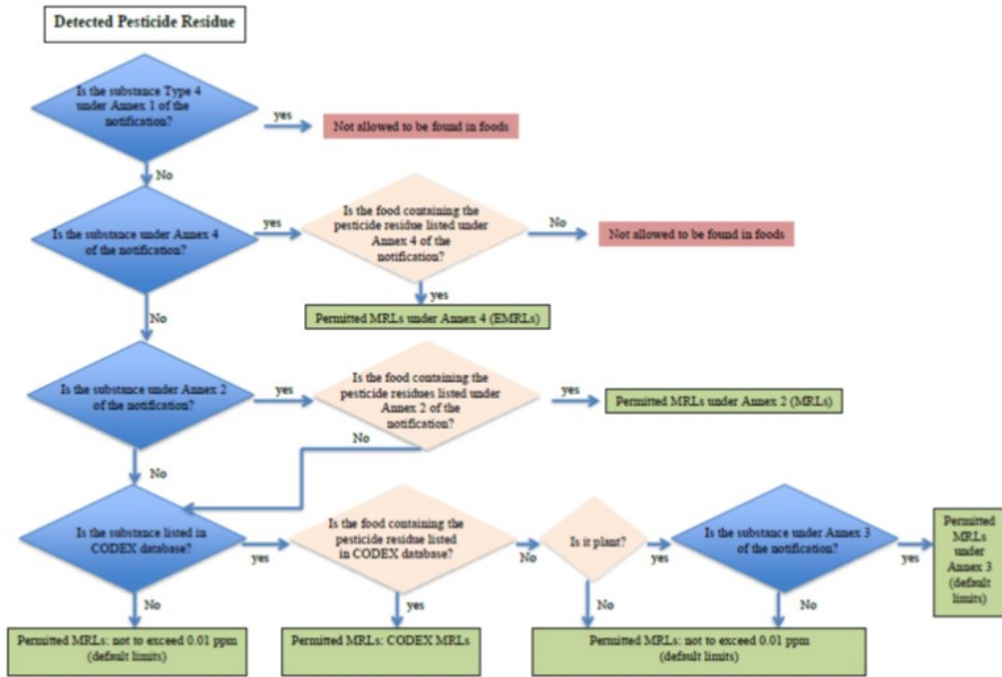
Group 3: Low Risk Group

Products that are not classified as "Very High Risk" or "High Risk" are classified as "Low Risk." The Thai FDA's Import-Export Inspection Division will conduct random testing using GT-Pesticide test kits & GPO-TM/2 kits as basic screening tests. If a test result is positive, the sample will be sent to a government laboratory for further comprehensive testing. **If the test result is found to be noncompliant with the regulation, then the Thai FDA will place the exporter's name and the type of product on the "Very High Risk" list similar to the process in the "High Risk" group.**

If the importer does not want the shipment to be randomly tested in Thailand, the importer can present a Certificate of Analysis (COA) issued by a government laboratory of the exporting country, a government assigned lab, or a private laboratory complying with ISO/IEC 17025 for every shipment.

Below flowchart on how the Thai FDA regulates the pesticide residues in foods per the Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 387 Re: Pesticide Residues in Foods is available for download in this report.

**How the Thai FDA regulates the pesticide residues in foods as per the Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 387
Re: Pesticide Residues in Foods**



A translation of a flow chart prepared by USDA Thailand from the Food and Drug Administration Notification Re: Clarification to the Ministry of Public Health Notification No. 387 Re: Pesticide Residues in Foods

End of the Report.

Attachments:

[Flowchart on How the Thai FDA regulates the pesticide residues in foods as per the Notification of MOPH No387.pdf](#)