

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Post: Bangkok

New Quality Standard for Imported Alcoholic Beverages

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On June 5, 2019, the Excise Department issued a notification on the required quality standards for alcoholic beverages. Effective immediately, alcoholic beverages must meet these requirements in order to be imported into Thailand.

On June 5, 2019, the Thai Excise Department issued a notification that details the required Certificate of Analysis (COA) and method of analysis for imported alcoholic beverages including beer, wine and sparkling wine made from grapes, fermented liquor and distilled liquor. Effective immediately, under this new requirement, any importer who has submitted an import permit application must meet the COA requirements in order to be granted permission to import. For products that were tested against the COA requirements before the notification went into effect, the passed test results will be valid not more than 60 days for beer and for not more than 3 years for all other alcoholic beverages from the effective date of the notification. Upon the resubmission of the product sample for testing or the COA, the passed result will be valid for 3 years for all alcoholic beverages. Any imported alcoholic beverages that is in the process of product testing or has filed the import permit application, will be granted a 30 day extension period to submit product samples to be tested from the day the product is imported into Thailand.

Post is concerned about the potential adverse impact these requirements may have on the importation of some U.S. alcoholic beverages into Thailand as the new required COA standards apply limits on specific attributes including: aldehyde, methyl alcohol, ethyl carbamate, furfural, and lead.

Below is an unofficial translation of the proposed regulation notified to the WTO as G/TBT/N/THA/549.

Notification of the Excise Department Prescribing Quality Standard for Imported Liquor

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By virtue of the provision of Section 154 Paragraph 2 of the Excise Act, B.E. 2560 (2017), with the provisions of Clause 5 (2) and Clause 8 (4) of the Ministerial Regulation Liquor Importation Permission B.E. 2560 (2017) as amended by Ministerial Regulation Liquor Importation Permission (No. 2) B.E. 2562 (2019), the Director General of the Excise Department issues this Notification, prescribing the quality standard for imported liquor as follows:

Clause 1: Liquors to be imported into the Kingdom shall have the quality standard in accordance with quality standard description attached to this Notification, except for ethanol and distilled liquors with an alcohol content higher than 80 percent shall have the quality standard in accordance with the industrial product standards as to be announced by the Industrial Product Standards law.

Clause 2: Liquors which had been submitted to the Excise Department for quality analysis and notified the test results that the liquors are qualified in accordance with the industrial product standards or had received the certificate of analysis that are qualified with the industrial product standards before the day of coming into force of this Notification shall use the test results or the certificate of analysis for a period of no more than 3 years from the effective date of this Notification, except beer which shall use the test results or the certificate of analysis for a period of not more than 60 days from the effective date of this Notification.

Clause 3: Liquors to be imported into the Kingdom which are in between the process of analysis or

have filed the application for permission in accordance with the Ministerial Regulation Liquor Importation Permission B.E. 2560 (2017) given on the 12th day of September B.E. 2560 (2017), will get an extension to submit samples of liquors for analysis within 30 days from the day the liquor are imported into the Kingdom according to the Notification of the Excise Department Extension of the Implementation Period to be in compliance with the Excise Tax Act B.E. 2560 (2017) (No. 6) given on the 22nd day of April B.E. 2562 (2019) in accordance with the industrial product standards.

Liquors under paragraph 1 shall use the test results for a period of no more than 3 years from the effective date of this Notification, except beer shall use the test results for a period of not more than 60 days from the effective date of this Notification.

Clause 4: The Notification shall be effective on the announcement date of this Notification.

Announced on the 5th day of June B.E. 2562 (2019)
Patchara Anuntasilpa
Director General of the Excise Department

Standard of Analysis of Beer

Beer shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives and contaminants which are specified below, by using the test method of Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) or the equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.
2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Adehyde (Acetaldehyde)	160 ppm	AOAC 26.1.24
2	Methyl alcohol	420 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
3	Ethyl carbamate	200 ppm	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Sulfur dioxide	400 ppm	AOAC 27.1.39
2	Benzoic acid or salt of benzoic acid	250 ppm	AOAC 37.1.62A
3	sorbic acid or salt of sorbic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 28.2.02

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19
3	Ferrocyanide	Not found	ASTMD 4374

Standard of Analysis for Wine and Sparkling Wine made from Grapes, and Fermented Liquor

Wine and Sparkling Wine made from Grapes, and Fermented Liquor shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives and contaminants which are specified below, by using the test method of Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) and American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC and ASTM or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Methyl alcohol	50 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
2	Ethyl carbamate	50 ppb	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Sulfur dioxide	400 ppm	AOAC 27.1.39

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19
3	Copper	1.5 ppm	AOAC 28.1.23
4	Ferrous	1.5 ppm	AOAC 28.1.24

Standard of Analysis for Distilled Liquor

Distilled liquor shall have the standard of alcohol by volume, chemical attributes, food additives and contaminants which are specified below, by using the test method of Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) or the equivalent test method.

1. Alcohol by volume shall be as specified on the label with a tolerance of ± 1 degree (percent by volume), which shall be determined using the test method of AOAC 26.1.09 or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute over the test method, AOAC shall be used as the judgement method.

2. Chemical attributes shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Fusel oil	5,550 ppm	AOAC 26.1.28
2	Furfural	50 ppm	AOAC 26.1.32
3	Aldehyde (Acetaldehyde)		AOAC 26.1.24
	3.1 not exceed 40 degree	160 ppm	
	3.2 exceed 40 degree	220 ppm	
4	Methyl alcohol	1,000 ppm	AOAC 26.1.36
5	Ethyl carbamate	400 ppb	AOAC 28.1.48

3. Food additives shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Benzoic acid or salt of benzoic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 37.1.62A
2	Sorbic acid or salt of sorbic acid	200 ppm	AOAC 28.2.02

4. Contaminants shall be as specified in the table below and using the test method of AOAC or the equivalent test method. In case of dispute the test method, AOAC shall be used as the method to judge.

Item	Substances	Not exceed	Test Method
1	Arsenic	0.1 ppm	AOAC 9.1.01
2	Lead	0.2 ppm	AOAC 9.2.19

End of Report.