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China announces standards for Natural Mineral Water as WTO SPS WTO Notification 1041

Report Categories:
FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:
On November 25, 2015, China notified the WTO of the National Food Safety Standard of Natural Mineral Water (an update of the GB 8537), issued by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), as SPS/N/CHN/1041. The standard applies to all packaged natural mineral water offered for sale as food. It does not apply to natural mineral water sold or used for other purposes. It also does not apply to purified water and other types of drinking water. The deadline for submission of final comments to China is January 24, 2016. The proposed date of entry is yet to be determined. Comments can be sent to China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@aqsiq.gov.cn. The following report contains an unofficial translation of this draft measure.

General Information

BEGIN TRANSLATION

National Food Safety Standard Natural Mineral Water

Preface

This standard replaces GB 8537-2008 " Natural Mineral Water".

Compared with GB 8537-2008, this standard has the following changes:

- Changed the name of the standard to "National Standard for Food Safety - Drinking Natural Mineral Water"
- Revised the requirements of water sources;
- Deleted the classification of products;
- Revised the sensory requirements;
- Revised the limit index;
- Revised the contaminant index;
- Revised the microbial index;
- Revised the labelling requirements.

National Food Safety Standard Natural Mineral Water

1 Scope

This standard applies to the drinking natural mineral water.

2 Terms and Definitions

2.1 Drinking Natural Mineral Water

The water naturally poured out from deep underground or collected by drilling, containing a certain amount of minerals, trace elements or other components, uncontaminated in a certain area and preventing being contaminated by taking preventive measures; in the case of normal circumstances, its chemical composition, flow, water temperature and other dynamic indicators are relatively stable in the range of natural cycle fluctuations.

3 Technical Requirements

3.1 Ingredient Requirements

3.1.1 The survey and evaluation of the water source areas and the monitoring of the water source areas shall be implemented according to the relevant provisions of GB/T 13727.

3.1.2 The sanitary protection of the water sources and monitoring of water quality shall be implemented according to GB 19304.

3.1.3 The microbial indexes of the source water should conform to the requirements in table 1 and table 2.

3.1.4 The physical and chemical indexes and contaminant limit should be in accordance with the provisions of 3.3-3.4 (excluding the manganese and oxygen consumption).

Table 1 Microbial Indexes

Items	Requirements	Analysis Method
Coliform group/(MPN/100mL)	0	National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for Drinking Natural Mineral Water
Streptococcus faecalis/(CFU/250mL)	0	
Pseudomonas aeruginosa/(CFU/250mL)	0	
Clostridium perfringens/(CFU/50mL)	0	
Note 1: Sample 1x250mL (take 1x250mL sample of clostridium perfringens) to conduct the first test, if the results conform to the requirements of Table 1, then report it as "Acceptable". Note 2: If the test result is higher than 1 and lower than 2, n samples should be taken based on table 2 to conduct the second test. Note 3: If the test result is higher than or equal to 2, then report it as "Unacceptable".		

Table 2 Second Test

Items	Number of Samples		Limit		Analysis Method
	n	c	m	M	"National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for Drinking Natural Mineral Water"
Coliform group	4	1	0	2	
Streptococcus faecalis	4	1	0	2	
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	4	1	0	2	
Clostridium perfringens	4	1	0	2	
Note: n - The number of samples shall be taken for one batch of products; c - The maximum number of samples that is allowable to exceed the value of the m, if this value is exceeded, then it should be considered as Unacceptable. m - The maximum acceptable limit (CFU) permitted in each 250mL (or 50 mL) sample. M - If the unacceptable microbial limit (CFU) in each 250mL (or 50 mL) sample is equal to or higher than the value of M, the sample is unacceptable.					

3.2 **Organoleptic Requirements**

The organoleptic requirements shall be in accordance with the regulations in Table 1.

Table 3 Organoleptic Requirements

Items	Requirements	Analysis Method
Chromaticity/degree ≤	10 (no other different colors are allowed)	"National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for Drinking Natural Mineral Water"
Turbidity/NTU ≤	1	
Status	A very small amount of mineral deposits is allowed, without normally visible foreign matters	
Taste, smell	It has the characteristic taste of mineral water, without different smell and odor	

3.3 Physical and Chemical Indexes

3.3.1 Threshold indexes

One (or more) of the threshold indexes shall in accordance with the regulations in table 4.

Table 4 Threshold Indexes

Items	Requirements	Analysis Method
Lithium/(mg/L) ≥	0.20	"National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for Drinking Natural Mineral Water"
strontium/(mg/L) ≥	0.20 (When the content is 0.20mg/L - 0.40 mg/L, the water temperature of the water source should be higher than 25°C)	
Zinc/(mg/L) ≥	0.20	
Iodide/(mg/L) ≥	0.20	
Metasilicate/(mg/L) ≥	25.0 (When the content is 25.0mg/L~30.0mg/L, the water temperature of the water source should be higher than 25°C)	
Selenium/(mg/L) ≥	0.01	
Free carbon dioxide/(mg/L) ≥	250	
Total dissolved solid/(mg/L) ≥	1000	

3.3.2 Limit Indexes

The limit indexes shall be in accordance with the regulations in Table 5.

Table 5 Limit Indexes

Items	Index	Analysis Method
Antimony/(mg/L) ≤	0.005	National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for

Barium/(mg/L) <	0.7	Drinking Natural Mineral Water
Borate(at B)/(mg/L) <	5	
Chromium (at total chrome)/(mg/L) <	0.05	
Copper/(mg/L) <	1.0	
Cyanide (at CN)/(mg/L) <	0.010	
Fluoride (at F^-)/(mg/L) <	1.5	
Manganese/(mg/L) <	0.4	
Nickel/(mg/L) <	0.02	
Silver/(mg/L) <	0.05	
Bromate/(mg/L) <	0.01	
Oxygen consumption (at O_2)/(mg/L) <	2.0	
Volatile phenol (at phenol)/(mg/L) <	0.002	
Anionic synthetic detergent/(mg/L) <	0.3	
Mineral oil/(mg/L) <	0.05	
^{226}Radium activity/(Bq/L) <	1.1	
Gross β activity/(Bq/L) <	1.50	

3.4 Contaminant Limit

The contaminant limit should be in accordance with the regulations of mineral water specified in GB 2762.

3.5 Microbial Limit

The microbial limit shall be in accordance with the regulations in Table 6.

Table 6 Microbial Limit

Items	Sampling Plan[a] and Limit			Analysis Method
	n	c	m	
Coliform group/(MPN/100mL)	5	0	0	National Food Safety Standard - Analysis Method for Drinking Natural Mineral Water
Streptococcus faecalis/(CFU/250mL)	5	0	0	
Pseudomonas aeruginosa/(CFU/250mL)	5	0	0	

Clostridium perfringens/(CFU/50mL)	5	0	0	
[a] The sampling and processing shall be implemented according to GB 4789.1.				

4 Others

4.1 It shall be packaged in the vicinity of the water source point and shall not be transported with containers to other places for filling.

4.2 The prepackaging of the product shall also meet the following requirements:

4.2.1 Label the name of the source of the natural mineral water;

4.2.2 Label the threshold index, total soluble solid content as well as the range of content of the main cations (K^+,Na^+,Ca^{2+},Mg^{2+}) as the product reaches the standards;

4.2.3 When the fluoride content is higher than 1.0mg/L, the characters "Containing Fluoride" should be identified on the label.

END OF TRANSLATION