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Report Highlights:

Thailand's Ministry of Public Health issued a regulation that revises the maximum allowable levels of certain food additives. The unofficial translation of the revised regulation, which went into effect on December 21, 2016 as well as instructions to search for each food additive are provided in this report.

General Information:

Thailand's Revised Food Additive Maximum Level Published

On December 21, 2016, the Notification Regarding Food Additives No. 4 (notified to the WTO as G/SPS/N/THA/234) from the Ministry of Public Health went into effect. This new regulation aligns the format of the existing regulations governing food additives with the established CODEX format, and adopts standardized Codex food categories. Specifically, the proposal has 1) prescribed/established the conditions and instances where certain food additives will be permitted, and 2) revised maximum levels for certain food additives where the intake of such food additives from all its uses exceed the acceptable daily intake (ADI).

Below is an unofficial translation of the revised regulation. The entire regulation is also available as an enclosure to this report. Additionally, the instructions on how to do a quick search of the permitted maximum level of each food additive for a certain product category is provided under the notes section of this report.

(Unofficial Translation)
Notification of the Ministry of Public Health
(No. 381) B.E. 2559 (2016)
Re: Food Additive (No. 4)

It deems appropriate to revise some provisions of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Food Additives, which includes Cyclamate and Steviol glycoside to be up to date with the food production technology and benefit of consumer protection.

By the virtue of provisions of Section 5 in the first paragraph and Section 6 (1) (2) (4) (5) (6) (7) (9) and (10) of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. Clause 6 of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 281 B.E. 2547 (2004) on Food Additives, dated on 18 August B.E. 2547 (2004) shall be repealed and replaced by the following provision:

"Clause 6 the use of food additives shall follow the name of food additive, category or type of food, functional classes and maximum permitted use level according to annex I with additional explanation of food category and conditions provided in annex II of this Notification.

For the combined use of two or more food additives classified in the same functional classes, with the maximum level has been individually set, the sum of the quantities obtained by dividing the amount of each food additive used by the maximum permitted level for that food additive must not exceed one."

Clause 2. Add the following statement as 6(1) of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 281 B.E. 2547 (2004) on Food Additives, dated on 18 August B.E. 2547 (2004).

"6(1) The use of food additives that differs from the statement stipulated in Clause 6 shall be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Such food additives shall pass the safety assessment according to the rules, conditions and procedures for permission as follows:

(1) Food additives shall have the qualities or standards according to the latest version of the Codex Advisory Specification for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives or the Thai FDA's Notification regarding Prescribed Quality and Standard of Food Additives;

(2) Food additives pass the exposure assessment;

(3) Food additives have the technical documents or reliable research publications supporting the necessity of using such additives in food;

(4) Use of food additives comply with the current laws and regulations of at least two countries, which have the reliable risk assessment system.

Clause 3. Add the following statement as 6(2) of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 281 B.E. 2547 (2004) on Food Additives, dated on 18 August B.E. 2547 (2004).

“6(2) The use of food additives according to Clause 6 and 6(1) shall not enforce on “Specific Controlled Food” or “Prescribed Quality and Standardized Food” as the use of food additives in these food categories were already stipulated in their own specific regulations.”

Clause 4. Clause 7 of the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 281 B.E. 2547 (2004), Re: Food Additives, dated on 18 August B.E. 2547 (2004) shall be repealed.

Clause 5. The food manufacturer or importer, obtaining a permission prior to the effective date of this Notification, shall comply with this Notification within two year from the effective date.

Clause 6. This Notification shall come into force after the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Announced on 3rd November, 2016

Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn

Minister of Public Health

(The notification was published in Royal Gazette on December 20, 2016)

Additional background on this regulation is available in Post's prior GAIN report: [Gain report on Thai FDA Proposed Revisions to MLs of Certain Food Additives](#).

Notes:

1. The entire regulation including the table of food additives with permitted maximum level is enclosed in this report.
2. Any U.S. exporter that would like to check on the permitted maximum level can go to Annex 1 of the regulation and look at the food additive name, which is provided in English. The food categories listed in the regulation are the same as the food categories in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). A translation of each column is also provided below for reference.

รหัสของ หมวดอาหาร (Food Category Number)	หมวดอาหาร (Food Category)	ปริมาณสูงสุดที่ อนุญาต (มก./กก.) (Allowable Maximum Level (ppm))	เงื่อนไข (Condition)	ปีที่รับค่า กำหนด (Year adopted the ML value)
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		For “ปริมาณที่เหมาะสม”, it is GMP level		Year “2559” specified in the table means “2016”
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