

(Unofficial Translation)

Surveillance measure to inspect pesticide residues of imported fresh vegetables and fruits at the FDA Checkpoint in fiscal year of 2022

(For importer)

Rationale

Since August 1st, 2020, Import and Export Inspection Division, Food and Drug Administration has implemented the surveillance measure to inspect pesticide residues of imported fresh vegetables and fruits to reduce the excessed pesticide residues that may affect to consumer's health. This measure classifies the imported fresh vegetables and fruits by risk from very high to low as follows,

- Very high risk group means the imported fresh vegetables and fruits subject to the strict inspection due to their history of non-compliance. It will appear on the 'List of imported fresh vegetables and fruits that found some risks from pesticide residues' (Very high risk list).
- High risk group means the top five of imported fresh vegetables and fruits which have found non-compliance more than 20 percent in each type. The vegetable group consists of sweet peas, celery, coriander, Chinese kale or Chinese broccoli, and spinach. The fruit group consists of cherry, citrus, strawberry, grapes, and dragon fruit.
- Low risk group means the imported fresh vegetables and fruits which have found non-compliance not more than 20 percent, and neither on the very high risk group nor on the high risk group.

In the meantime, this also facilitates the importation for importer who provides the certificate of analysis (COA) of the produce's compliance. It is, however, not a mandatory measure.

After the implementation of this measure, it shows that the non-compliance of imported fresh vegetables in high risk group has decreased except spinach. However the top five products still have found non-compliance more than 20 percent. For the imported fresh fruits in high risk group, non-compliance has reduced. In citrus, strawberry, grapes, and dragon fruit have found non-compliance less than 20 percent while litchi (lychee), cherry, and pomegranate show non-compliance exceeding 20 percent.

Operational framework

Starting from October 1st, 2021, the operational framework and procedures is followed the implementation of surveillance measure on August 1st, 2020 which some revisions as follows,

1. This measure is in accordance with the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health: Regarding Food Containing Pesticide Residues (no. 387, 393 and 419), Re: Prescription of production process, equipment and utensil for production and storage of some fresh fruits or vegetables and labeling (no. 386), and Re: Food Production Processes, Processing Equipment/ Utensils and Storage Practices (no. 420), and also the Announcement of Food and Drug Administration Re: Inspection of imported foods into the Kingdom of Thailand dated June 13th, 2016.
2. Import and Export Inspection Division has classified fresh vegetables and fruits according to the risk of pesticide residues into 3 groups as follows;
 - 2.1. Very high-risk group means fresh produce that appears on the ‘List of imported fresh vegetables and fruits that found some risks from pesticide residues’ (Very high risk list).
 - 2.2. High risk group means the top five of fresh produces with the non-compliance more than 20 percent in each type in fiscal year of 2020.

Vegetables: spinach, celery, coriander, Chinese kale or Chinese broccoli, and garden pea

Fruits: litchi (lychee), cherry, and pomegranate

- 2.3. Low risk group means the imported fresh vegetables and fruits which have found non-compliance not more than 20 percent, and neither on the very high risk group nor on the high risk group.
3. Import and Export Inspection Division will facilitate the import by waiving some measures, if the importer of fresh vegetables and fruits can provide the certificate of analysis (COA) as per the requirement. Eligible COA shall be issued by the responsible government agency of the country of origin or a laboratory endorsed by the government authority or a private institutions that have been certified laboratory according to ISO/IEC 17025, demonstrating that product safety complies with the regulation. It is noted that COA is not mandatory, but is to help fasten the inspection process. The pesticide residues that are required in COA are as follows:

- 3.1. Very high risk group shall present the pesticide residues that appear in the list of 'Very high risk'
- 3.2. High risk group shall present the pesticide residues that appear in the list of 'pesticide residues displayed in the COA of high risk group in fiscal year of 2022'
4. The 'Very high risk list' and 'list of pesticide residues displayed in the COA of high risk group in fiscal year of 2022' is published on website of Import and Export Inspection Division. (<https://mnfda.fda.moph.go.th/dis/fda-logistics/>)
5. Importer shall follow Guideline for the implementation of surveillance measure to inspect pesticide residues of imported fresh vegetables and fruits at the FDA Checkpoint (For importer) which implemented on August 1st, 2020. (<https://mnfda.fda.moph.go.th>)