

(Unofficial)

**Notification of the Ministry of Public Health
(No. 280) B.E. 2547 (2004)
Re: Herbal teas**

Information confirms that several types of herbal plants are widely used to produce drinking teas. Thus, it deems appropriate in the interest of consumer protection to prescribe the qualities or standards of herbal teas.

By the virtue of provisions of Section 5 and 6(3) (4) (5) (6) (7) and (10) of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), in which contain provisions in relation to the restriction of Rights and Liberties of the Persons, in respect of which Section 29 and in conjunction with Section 35, Section 39, Section 48, and Section 50 of the constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by virtue of provisions of law; the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. Herbal teas shall be food prescribed to have qualities or standards.

Clause 2. "Herbal tea" means products from parts of plants that are not transformed and are used for consumption by boiling or infusing with water.

Clause 3. Plants stipulated in Clause 2 shall be in accordance with the list annexed to this notification and additional list issued by the Food and Drug Administration according to an approval of the Food Committee.

Clause 4. Herbal teas shall be of the following qualities or standards:

(1) Shall have moisture content as specified in the pharmacopeia prescribed by the Minister according to the law regarding drugs. In case that there is no standard specified, the moisture content shall not be more than 10% by weight;

(2) Shall not contain pathogenic microorganisms;

(3) Shall not contain microbial toxins, pesticides, contaminants or other toxic compounds at the level that may be harmful to health, except for the followings:

(3.1) Arsenic not more than 0.2 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.2) Cadmium not more than 0.3 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.3) Lead not more than 0.5 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.4) Copper not more than 5 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.5) Zinc not more than 5 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.6) Iron not more than 15 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.7) Tin not more than 250 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(3.8) Sulfur dioxide not more than 10 milligrams per 1 kilogram of food

(4) Shall not contain any modern drugs or Psychotropic Substances or narcotics prescribed by the laws thereof, as the case may be;

(5) Shall not add color;

(6) Shall not be flavored with other substances except those plants specified in the list annexed to this notification according to Clause 3 or leaves, tips, and young stems of the plants in the Camellia Family.

Clause 5. Producers or Importers of Herbal tea for sale shall follow Notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re : Production Processes, Production Equipments and Food Storages.

Clause 6. Use of containers for herbal teas shall follow Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Containers.

Clause 7. Use of label for herbal teas shall follow Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Labels.

Clause 8. Manufacturers and importers granted for food registration or food labels according to the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 214) B.E. 2543 Re: Beverages in Sealed Containers dated 19th September B.E. 2543 amended by the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 230) B.E. 2544 Re: Beverages in Sealed Containers (No.2) dated 24th July B.E. 2544, prior to the day this Notification comes into force may continue to use the granted Food Serial Numbers as registered in accordance with this Notification.

Clause 9. This notification shall come into force as from the day following date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Notified on 4th June B.E. 2547 (2004)

(Signed) Sudarat Keyuraphan
(Mrs. Sudarat Keyuraphan)

Minister of Public Health

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 121, Special Part 82 Ngor, dated 26th July 2004.)

Note: This English version of the notification is translated to meet the need of the non-Thai speaking people. In case of any discrepancy between the Thai original and the English translation, the former will take priority.