

(Unofficial)  
Notification of the Ministry of Public Health  
(No. 197) B.E. 2543 (2000)  
Re: Coffee

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By the virtue of provisions of Sections 5 and 6 (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 comprise with Section 35, 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 a notification as follows:

**Clause 1.** The following notification shall be repealed:

(1) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 77 B.E. 2527 (1984), Re: Coffee, dated 13<sup>th</sup> January B.E. 2527 (1984).

(2) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 132 B.E. 2533 (1990), Re: Coffee (No. 2), dated 15<sup>th</sup> October B.E. 2533 (1990).

(3) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 181 B.E. 2540 (1997), Re: Coffee (No. 3), dated 21<sup>st</sup> November B.E. 2540 (1997).

**Clause 2.** Roasted coffee is prescribed food to have qualities or standards.

**Clause 3.** Coffee as stipulated in clause 2 can be classified into 6 types as follows:

(1) Genuine coffee means product derived form ripe coffee of coffee family, which is passed through seed separated process, roasted and may be ground the required size.

(2) Mixed coffee means product derived form coffee as stipulated in (1) and mixed with other substances that shall not be hazardous to health.

(3) Decaffeinated coffee means product derived form coffee as stipulated in (1) and caffeine is extracted.

(4) Instant coffee means product derived from ripe coffee of coffee family, which is passed through seed separated process, roasted without mixing with other substances, and being extracted by water only, dehydrated by suitable process in powder or flakes or other form and shall be totally dissolved in water instantly.

(5) Mixed instant coffee means instant coffee as stipulated in (4), being mixed with other substances that shall not be hazardous to health.

(6) Decaffeinated instant coffee means product derived from coffee as stipulated in (4) and caffeine is extracted.

In case, coffee as stipulated in (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) to be mixed with other ingredient to be ready-to-drink coffee and packed in sealed containers, in both of liquid and dry form, shall follow to this notification.

**Clause 4.** Genuine coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Odour and taste inherent of that specific characteristics of genuine coffee.
- (2) Total ash not more than 6% by weight and total ash shall dissolve in water not lesser than 75% by weight.
- (3) Caffeine content not less than 1% by weight.
- (4) Sugar, to be calculated as total inverted sugar, not more than 1.5% by weight.
- (5) No other substances to be added, except for substances that are used for roasting and flavouring, shall not be hazardous to health.
- (6) No colour added, except brown sugar or caramel colour.

**Clause 5.** Mixed coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Coffee content not less than 20% of dried weight.
- (2) Usage of artificial sweetener shall follow to Food Standard of Joint FAO/WHO, Codex, Re: Food additives and the amended version.

In case where no standard is prescribed in the first phrase, the Food and Drug Administration shall prescribe according to an approval of the Food Committee.

- (3) The qualities or standards shall be approved from the Food and Drug Administration.

**Clause 6.** Decaffeinated coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Caffeine content not more than 0.1% by weight.
- (2) The qualities or standards shall be approved from the Food and Drug Administration.

**Clause 7.** Instant coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Odour and taste inherent of that specific characteristics of genuine coffee.
- (2) Moisture content not more than 5% by weight.
- (3) Total ash not more than 5% of dried weight.
- (4) Caffeine content not less than 2.5% by weight.

**Clause 8.** Mixed instant coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Moisture content not more than 5% by weight.
- (2) Caffeine content not less than 1.5% by weight.
- (3) No colour added, except brown sugar or caramel colour.
- (4) Usage of artificial sweetener shall follow to Food Standard of Joint FAO/WHO, Codex, Re: Food additives and the amended version.

In case where no standard is prescribed in the first phrase, the Food and Drug Administration shall prescribe according to an approval of the Food Committee.

- (5) The qualities or standards shall be approved from the Food and Drug Administration.

**Clause 9.** Decaffeinated instant coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

- (1) Moisture content not more than 5% by weight.

(2) Caffeine content not more than 0.3% by weight.

(3) The qualities or standards shall be approved from the Food and Drug Administration.

**Clause 10.** Coffee in liquid form as stipulated in the second phrase of Clause 3 shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

(1) Odour and taste inherent of that specific characteristics of coffee.

(2) Caffeine content not more than 100 mg. per 100 ml. of ready-to-drink coffee in liquid form and caffeine shall be only derived from coffee which is used as raw materials.

(3) Coliform bacteria shall be detected less than 2.2 per 100 ml. of coffee by Most Probable Number Method (MPN).

(4) *Escherichia coli* shall not be detected.

(5) Free of pathogenic microorganism.

(6) Free of toxic substances released by microorganisms or other toxic substances in quantity which may be hazardous to health.

(7) Free of yeast and mould.

(8) Usage of artificial sweetener shall follow to Food Standard of Joint FAO/WHO Codex, Re: Food additives and the amended version.

In case where no standards is prescribed in the first phrase, the Food and Drug Administration shall prescribe according to an approval of the Food Committee.

(9) Preservatives shall be prescribed as follows:

(9.1) Sulphur dioxide not more than 70 mg. per 1 kg. of ready to drink coffee.

(9.2) Benzoic acid or sorbic acid or salts of both acids, to be calculated as acid, shall not be more than 200 mg. per 1 kg. of ready-to-drink coffee.

Usage of preservatives as stipulated in (9.1) or (9.2) shall be individually used, in case where more than one preservatives are used, the total quantity of preservatives used not more than to the least allowed quantity.

In necessary case where other preservative to be use are differ from the stipulation above, such usage must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

**Clause 11.** Dried ready-to-drink coffee shall be of the qualities or standards as follows:

(1) Moisture content not more than 6% by weight.

(2) Coffee, when dissolved according to label, shall be of the quantities or standards as stipulated in clause 10.

**Clause 12.** Coffee producers or importers for sale shall follow to the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Production processes, production equipments and foods storages.

**Clause 13.** Usage of containers for coffee shall follow to the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Containers.

**Clause 14.** Labels for coffee shall follow to the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Labels.

**Clause 15.** Food Registration or Food Labelling , which are issued to follow the notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 77 B.E. 2527 (1984), Re: Coffee, dated 13<sup>th</sup> January B.E. 2527 (1984), which was amended by the notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 132 B.E. 2533 (1980), Re: Coffee (No. 2), dated 15<sup>th</sup> October B.E. 2533 (1980), and the notification of the Ministry of Public Health No. 181 B.E. 2540 (1997), Re: Coffee (No. 3), dated 21<sup>st</sup> November B.E 2540 (1997), prior to this notification, shall be valid for 2 years as from the come into force date of this notification.

**Clause 16.** Coffee producers or importers, whose permits issued prior to this notification, shall apply for food serial number within one year as from the come into force date of this notification. After applying for food serial number, coffee producers or importers shall be abated from stipulation in Clause 12 for a period of 2 years after this notification come into force. As a result, the remaining labels are allowed to be used until last but not exceeding to 2 years after this notification come into force.

**Clause 17.** This notification shall come into force after 180 days as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Notified on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2000

(Signed) Korn Thupparungsri  
(Mr. Korn Thupparuagsri)  
Minister of Public Health

(Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 118, Special Part 6 Ngor, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2001)

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