

23 April 2024

NOTICE TO RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

This refers to the draft regulations distributed through the World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) website (www.epingalert.org) from 30 March to 05 April 2024.

Relative thereto, we respectfully invite stakeholders to comment on the three (3) notified draft technical regulations from Egypt and Thailand:

Document Symbol	Notifying Member	Relevant Dates	Products Covered	Summary
G/TBT/NE/GY/1/Add.24	Egypt	Date of Distribution: 04 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: Not Indicated	General standard for bottled / packaged drinking waters (other than natural mineral waters) - Addendum	This addendum concerns the notification of the Ministerial Decree No. 503/2023 (2 page, in Arabic) that gives the producers and importers a six-month transitional period to abide by the Egyptian Standard ES 1589 "General standard for bottled/ packaged drinking waters (other than natural mineral waters) " (21 pages, in Arabic). It should be noted that Ministerial Decree No. 130 /2005 (11 pages in Arabic) which was formerly notified in G/TBT/NEGY/1 dated 14 Dec 2005 mandated among others the earlier version of this Egyptian Standard. Worth mentioning is that this standard is technically identical with modification with Codex standard CXS 227-2001 Adopted in 2001, Amended in 2019 Producers and importers are kept informed of any amendments in the Egyptian standard through the publication of administrative orders in the official gazette.
G/TBT/NE/GY/464	Egypt	Date of Distribution: 04 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 02 June 2024	Non-woven plastic shopping sacks	This draft Egyptian standard specifies the requirements and methods for sampling and testing of multi-use plastic shopping bags made of non-woven polypropylene, which are used for carrying various types of products. Worth mentioning is that this draft standard complies with the following : • Uganda Standard (US) 2244: 2020 • KNWA 2884:2019 • TZS 2303: 2020
G/TBT/NT/HA/730	Thailand	Date of Distribution: 04 April 2024 Deadline for Comments:	Extraction solvent for use in food production	It is deemed appropriate to establish the regulation to control the use of Extraction Solvent in food production for consumer protection. The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) therefore proposes the draft Notification of the Ministry of Public Health

BUREAU OF PHILIPPINE STANDARDS

Membership:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
 - National Enquiry Point (NEP)
 - National Notification Authority (NNA)

		02 June 2024	<p>(No...) B.E... (...) issued by virtue of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979) regarding to extraction solvent for use in food production to establish the quality and safety requirements including terms of use.</p> <p>Key points of this notification are as follows:</p> <p>Clause 1. The notification of the ministry of public health (No. 259), B.E. 2545 issued under the food act, B.E. 2522 Re: Application of Methyl Alcohol as Processing Aid in Some Foods shall be repeal.</p> <p>Clause 2. This notification shall not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water used as Extraction solvents • Edible oils and fats used as Extraction solvents • Extraction solvents use in Food additive production <p>Clause 3. The definition of "Extraction solvent" means a food additive which is intended to be used as a processing aid to extract substances during the processing of raw materials, of foodstuffs, or of components or ingredients of these products and which is removed.</p> <p>Clause 4. Extraction solvent used in food production shall be specific controlled food under the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 281) B.E. 2547 (2004) Re: Food Additives.</p> <p>Clauses 5. to 7. The extraction solvent used in food production in this draft notification shall be complied with the following quality and safety requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition of the extraction solvent; i.e. active substance, food additives, water, fat and oil and other ingredients shall not be hazardous or harmful to health and shall have the qualities or standards according to the criteria specified in this draft notification. • For the extraction solvents contain more than two ingredients, the contaminants requirements are as follows: - Arsenic not more than 3 mg/kg - Lead not more than 10 mg/kg • The usage of active substance and conditions shall be complied with permitted list as shown in Annex. • The usage of active substance besides specified in the Annex of this draft notification shall be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Thailand in advance. Manufacturers or importers shall submit the document for safety assessment as specified in the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 281) B.E.
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To access the notification form, right click the document symbol to open the hyperlink. Should you have any queries on this matter or request for full text of draft regulation in English, please do not hesitate to email us at BPS@dti.gov.ph copy bps.smd@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

NEIL P. CATAJAY
Director