

Laws, Regulations, Characteristics and Forms of Food Fraud, and Penalties: Thailand's Approach to Ensuring Food Authenticity

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ABSTRACT:

Ensuring food authenticity is a fundamental aspect of food safety and consumer protection. In Thailand, the Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA) plays a central role in regulating and enforcing standards to prevent food fraud, which encompasses a wide range of intentional practices that mislead consumers for economic gain. These include, but are not limited to, adulteration, counterfeiting, mislabeling, and substitution of food products.

This presentation will provide an overview of the legal and regulatory framework that governs food authenticity in Thailand, highlighting key regulation under the Food Act B.E. 2522 and its subsequent amendments. It will outline the criteria and definitions used to identify fraudulent food products, including their physical and chemical characteristics, and how these are assessed through scientific and regulatory means.

Case examples will be shared to illustrate common forms of food fraud encountered in the Thai market and the enforcement actions taken. In addition, the presentation will explain the penalties imposed for violations, which may include product recalls, license revocation, administrative fines, and criminal prosecution.

By sharing Thailand's regulatory experience, this session aims to emphasize the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration, international cooperation, and the development of a food authenticity community to protect public health and ensure consumer trust.