OUTLINE OF IRRADIATED FOOD CONTROL IN THAILAND
Outline of Irradiated Food Control in Thailand

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Introduction

1. For Irradiated Foods the laws to be concerned in Thailand are:
   (1) The Food Quality Control Act BE 2507 (1964)
   (2) The Atomic Energy for Peace Act Be 2504 (1961)

Since the irradiated foods do not induce measurable radioactivity in the products and considered as one type of food processing, then it is not under the Atomic Energy Act but the nuclear reactor. If introduce into the country is under the Act Food Irradiation then is under the Food Quality Control Act BE 2507 (1964). Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health, is in charge of this Act and other pursuant here to.

2. In general the Food Act divides foods into two groups, the foods in general and the so-called controlled foods. Only the controlled foods subject to license both for manufacture and import into the territory or so speaking more rigid control, than those foods in general. Irradiated foods are declared to be controlled foods by the Act.

3. Due to widespread of irradiated foods have been known by public and some controversies concerning irradiated food going on. Consequently the Ministry of Public Health then named all irradiated foods as controlled foods\(^1\), in the year 1972. In 1973 a statutory standard for irradiated food - onion - was set up, prescribing irradiated onion to be the food under controlled and specification for manufacturing and distribution and labelling in Notification no. 17\(^2\).

Sub-committee for Irradiated Food

4. The most important body for approval of the irradiated food is the
Subcommittee for irradiated food. The subcommittee has been set up by the Ministry, approval by the Board of Food Quality Control, to deal with this special commodity of food since 1971. Term of reference for this subcommittee cover all aspects of food irradiation control, consider the application and also laydown standard and specification and condition of need be to be made.

**Mechanism of Control**

5. The mechanism of control work shall be described in a flow chart as following:

- manufacture
- importer

6. As same as the other controlled food i.e. canned foods, all irradiated food do have a fair chance to get permit either for manufacture or the importer if one can prove it safety and wholesomeness from the Public Health point of view. In Thailand irradiated onions has been unconditionally offered for human consumption since 1973. The manufacture as well as importer and exporter of irradiated onions are subjected to the License issued by the Ministry of Public Health. This irradiated onion subject for Licenses too. However, more or less as the notification for specification of irradiated onion was made, it can bypass the subcommittee for consideration, if the FDA satisfy the application, then one shall be cut short for this particular irradiated commodity.
Notification of the Ministry of Public Health
No. 6 (B.E. 2515)
Re: Prescribing irradiated food to be under controlled.

By virtue of Section 5(1) of the Food Quality Control Act B.E. 2507,
'amended by Notification of the Revolutionary Party No. 49, dated 18 January
B.E. 2515, the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the Notification as follows:

IRRADIATED FOOD being controlled food.

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

Given on 18 March B.E. 2515

K. Pengsritong
Under-Secretary of State for Public Health
Acting the Minister
Notification of the Ministry of Public Health
No. 17 (B.E. 2516)

Re: Prescribing irradiated onions to be the food under controlled, standards on quantity, specification and process of manufacturing for distributions and labelling.

By virtue of Section 5(1) (2) (8) and (9) of the Food Quality Control Act B.E. 2507, amended by Notification of the Revolutionary Party No. 49, dated 18 January B.E. 2515, the Minister of Public Health issues the Notification as follows:

1. Irradiated onions subject to be controlled

2. For purpose of irradiated onions as to inhibit its growth, there must (have the following process)
   (1) Use of Gamma Ray by the Cobalt-60 Reactor.
   (2) Quantity of radioactivity obtained from the Cobalt-60 not more than 10 Kilorads.

3. Storage of irradiated onions must be stored in the container indicating passed irradiated upon labelling.

4. Import or bringing into the territory of irradiated onions for sale, produced for sale or distribution must have labelling in Thai clearly and at least the following statements must be presented on the label;
   (1) This onion is inhibited growth by the Gamma Ray.
   (2) Name and the number of Food Registration.
   (3) Name and address of manufacturer.
   (4) Dated from which its irradiated.

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

Given on 20 March B.E. 2516
(P1943)

Police-General P. Rujirawong
Minister of Public Health.