

FOOD ACT, 1979

According to the Food Act 1979, foods may be classified into three main categories:

1. **Specific-controlled food:** this is the category in which registration is required. Legal provisions are established regarding qualities, specifications, labelling requirement as well as other aspects of good manufacturing practices. Manufacturers and importers have to apply for respective licenses.
2. **Standardized food:** These are the certain types of food mainly produced locally by a small-scale industry or household industry. The main objective is to facilitate and encourage products and at the same time safeguard consumers. Standardized food does not need registration but its quality and labelling have to meet the standards or requirement as notified by the Minister of Public Health.
3. **General Food:** If food, either raw or cooked, preserved or non-preserved, processed or non-processed has not been listed under category (1) or (2), it will be taken into FDA's consideration as 'general food'. In accordance with the Ministerial Notification, general food can be categorized into:
 - a) Food notified to be labelled
 - b) Other general food

Regulatory Functions

According to the Food Act, those who intend to import food products into Thailand must apply for an import licence, and those who intend to manufacture food must apply for a manufacturing licence. These requirements are strictly applied to manufacturers and importers of specific-controlled food. Applications for licence and product registration will be reviewed and analyzed. The plant or storage inspection will be made by the authority. Food inspectors are authorised to inspect food factories, import firms or food caterers including vehicles carrying food. They are also authorised to seize or confiscate foods or food containers suspected of being impure, adulterated, unsanitary or hazardous to health. Once approved, a licence and/or registration number will be issued.