



QID/ID

30 Mar 2011

## CIRCULAR

All Bottled / Packaged Natural Mineral Water Importers / Declaring Agents

***(All declaring agents are requested to inform your consignees or importers of the contents of this circular)***

Dear Sir/Madam

### **FOOD (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2011 REVISION TO IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF NATURAL MINERAL WATER**

We would like to inform you that with the Food (Amendment) Regulations 2011, which will come into effect from 15 Apr 2011, there will be changes to the import requirements of bottled / packaged natural mineral water (including spring water). The details of the changes to the Food (Amendment) Regulations 2011 can be found on AVA's website: <http://www.ava.gov.sg/NewsEvents/Circulars/2011/index.htm> (under "Processed Food and Food Appliances").

2 For your easy reference, I list below the changes to the import requirements of bottled / packaged natural mineral water (including spring water).

#### **(A) Product label**

(i) Bottled natural mineral water must be properly labelled with the name of the product, the country of origin, the name and address of the importer in Singapore, name and location of the source of water and the analytical composition giving characteristics to the natural mineral water.

In addition, natural mineral water that contains more than 1 ppm of fluoride will be required to be labeled with the words "*contains fluoride*" as part of, or in close proximity to the name of the product, or in an otherwise prominent position. Where the natural mineral water contains more than 1.5 ppm of fluoride, the label must contain the following statement in addition to the words "*contains fluoride*".

*"The product is not suitable for infants and children under the age of seven".*

## (B) Chemical Test

Chemical Test Parameters	Current Limits	New Limits Wef 15 April 2011
Antimony	NA	Not more than 0.005ppm
Arsenic	Not more than 0.05ppm	Not more than 0.01ppm calculated as As
Barium	Not more than 1 ppm	Not more than 0.7 ppm
Borate	Not more than 30ppm calculated as H <sub>3</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	Not more than 5ppm calculated as B
Cadmium	Not more than 0.01ppm	Not more than 0.003ppm
Chromium	Not more than 0.05ppm	Not more than 0.05ppm calculated as Cr
Copper	NA	Not more than 1ppm
Cyanide	Not more than 0.01ppm calculated as CN <sup>-</sup>	Not more than 0.07ppm
Fluoride	Not more than 2ppm calculated as F <sup>-</sup>	NA (but additional labelling requirements are imposed for > 1ppm and > 1.5 ppm fluoride : please refer to item (A) above)
Iodine	Not more than 1ppm	NA
Lead	Not more than 0.05ppm	Not more than 0.01ppm
Manganese	Not more than 2 ppm	Not more than 0.4ppm
Nickel	NA	Not more than 0.02ppm
Nitrate	Not more than 45ppm calculated as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Not more than 50ppm calculated as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
Nitrite	Not more than 0.005ppm calculated as NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Not more than 0.1ppm calculated as NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>

3 Importers are required to submit health certificates/laboratory reports reflecting the changes in the test parameters with effect from **15 Apr 2011**. The submitted health certificates/laboratory reports must contain the complete list of chemical and microbiological test parameters and their limits as specified in Annex A (available at the following link: <http://www.ava.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/7F31BA74-EB0D-410B-8141-001ADA730602/18863/FOODAMENDMENTREGULATIONS2011REVISIONTOIMPORTREQUIR.pdf>).

4 However, importers are given the following grace periods for products which do not comply with the new requirements, but which otherwise comply with existing Food Regulations:

- **15 October 2011:** Last day for traders to import / manufacture non-compliant product
- **15 April 2012:** Last day of sale for non-compliant product

5 In addition, importers are reminded to submit a copy of the license of the factory where the bottled / packaged natural mineral water, the original copy of the authentication certificate issued by the relevant controlling authority of the country of

origin to certify that the mineral water is genuine, and a site plan showing the water source (one time submission only for new products). Please indicate your URN and name of your company on the documents and fax to AVA (QID) at Fax: 6221 5091/6221 2194.

6 Importers should ensure that the bottled/packaged natural mineral water complies with the labelling requirements, the labels are in English and the correct HS and product codes are declared during permit application.

7 Please contact Mr Mohd Kassim Baren at 6325 1221, if you require further clarification.

8 Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Koh Boon Liang  
Deputy Director  
Inspection Division  
Quarantine and Inspection Department  
for Director-General  
Agri-Food and Veterinary Services

*This is a computer-generated letter and no signature is required.*