

Statement from Thailand (Global Version)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the majority of countries as well as the global food supply chain around the globe. Thailand, as one of the world's top food exporters, is strongly committed to placing its full efforts into maintaining our reputation as "the kitchen of the world." The Thai government recognizes the importance of the highest quality, product safety, consistency, and international hygiene standards and regulations.

Although there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19, food operator members of the Thai Food Processors' Association have imposed more strict policies to produce hygienic and safe food such as the production processes running under the instruction of CODEX Alimentarius Guidance – Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). Moreover, some manufacturers have implemented more food safety standards in accordance with customers' requirements; ISO22000, BRC, IFS, etc.

In the food factories, there are more strict health screening policies for the employees and visitors, including optimal personal protection equipment (PPE) and training programs, information board campaign for proper actions, the full traceability systems across the supply chain, and processing areas and equipment which are well cleaned and sanitized at the optimal time intervals.

Thailand is the world's largest exporter of canned tuna, the production process is qualified and standardized, hygienic, and free of all bacteria and viruses. The Thai Tuna Industry Association explained that the processing times and manufacturing requirements comply with WHO/CODEX standards to ensure that bacteria and viruses are killed. All production process and quality control systems starting with the storage of caught fish to the loading/selling point are operating under the system of HACCP.

The Thai government is focused on delivering the highest food standards to ensure adequate food supplies for worldwide global demand. Thailand is strongly committed to serve our trade partners, importers and global consumers at a level of excellence that goes above and beyond global expectations.

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