



FCD 019.13/2009

16 November 2009

**CIRCULAR**

To All importers// Declaring agents

Dear Sirs/Madams

**IMPORT OF ABSINTHE CONTAINING WORMWOOD**

The alcoholic beverage, absinthe has not been allowed for sale in Singapore as the safety of thujone, an active component of the herb, wormwood (*Artemesia absinthium*) which is present in absinthe, may have side effects that render absinthe unsafe for consumption.

2 However, recent scientific research has shown that thujone may not cause the side effects at low levels. AVA has since reviewed the safety and suitability of absinthe to be consumed as food and has recently completed the review.

3 With immediate effect, the alcoholic beverage, absinthe may be imported and sold in Singapore provided that the following requirements are complied with:

- (i) thujone (alpha and beta) in the alcoholic beverage does not exceed 5 parts per million (ppm) if the alcoholic beverage contains not more than 25% alcohol.
- (ii) thujone (alpha and beta) in the alcoholic beverage does not exceed 10 parts per million (ppm) if the alcoholic beverage contains more than 25% alcohol.

4 Importers are required to submit both the laboratory analysis report indicating the level of thujone present, as well as documentary proof from the relevant authority in the country of origin confirming that the product is allowed for sale, when applying for import permit via TradeNet system

5 The HS code and AVA product code of absinthe are as follows:

HS Code	Product Code	Product Description	Unit of Qty
22089090	ZBPØEDCØØCS	ABSINTHE	LTR

6 For absinthe products that have been imported into Singapore prior to the date of this circular, importers are required to submit their products for laboratory analysis to confirm that their products comply with the required standards. The laboratory reports should be submitted to AVA for approval to release the products for sale.

7 Please contact our TradeNet officers at Tel: 6325 0783, 6325 0784 or 6221 5056 if you require any clarification.

Yours faithfully



**TAN TUANG HONG**  
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**FOOD & VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION**  
**for CEO**  
**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY**

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