$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Lao People's Democratic Republic} \\ \textbf{Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity} \\ \textbf{YYYYYUZZZZZ} \end{array}$

National Assembly No. 04/ NA

Vientiane Capital: 15 May 2004

Law on Food

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Law on Food

Part I General Provisions

Article 1 Objective of the Law

The Food Law defines the principles, rules, procedures and measures for the management and inspection of food activities in order to control the quality, standard, particularly the food safety, to assure on nutrition, to protect the health of consumers, to promote food production and business, to instruct the citizen to be aware, understand and select to consume safe, hygienic and nutritional foods, including to understand the utility and harmful effects of the food, to know how to take care the health, and involve in the protection and development of the country.

Article 2 Food

Food is any substance which the human consumes and drinks in fresh, cooked, raw or processed form, except drugs.

Article 3 Food utility and harmful effects

unqualified, substandard, and may be injured to the health of the consumers.

Contaminated food refers to the food contained biological or chemical substance, foreign elements or other substances added wherein or exceeded the requirement of food standard which may be injured to the health of the consumers.

Dangerous substance in the food refers to a toxic chemical substance and other substances, including the bacteria causing the harmful effects to the health.

Falsified food refers to the food using the trade mark of other one which has been officially registered

Food storage refers to the food warehousing for distributing to the society

Food keeping refers to the storing of food in the houses for familial use

Article 5 Obligations of citizen towards food

Lao citizens, aliens, non-citizen people and foreigners residing in the Lao PDR have the obligations to contribute in the management for production, preparation, storage, service, distribution and transportation of food in order to make the food being safe, qualified, standardized linking to the environmental protection. In addition, they are also entitled to protect sustainability the food resources originated from the nature.

Article 6 Promotion of food

The State has policy of promoting domestic and foreign individuals and organizations to invest in food activities relating to the cultivation, growing, preparation, service, industrial and manual production, storage, distribution, transportation of food that are national, tribal and international characteristic and transform into modern and industrial production to meet the supply of domestic use and exportation by providing the data and information to the population, the consumption of safe, qualified, nutritious food, including the necessary and suitable importation.

Article 7 International cooperation

The State widely welcomes and supports international cooperation in the field of food by experience exchanges, capacity building trainings, scientific researches and others in order to mobilize the assistances, foreign investments and exchanges of goods.

Part II

Section 1 Group of food

Article 8 Group of food

Food is classified into 3 groups, as follows:

Group 1: Energy-Giving food Group 2: Body-Building food Group 3: Body-Regulating food

Article 9 Energy-Giving Food

Energy-Giving Food is a food group that gives energy and makes the body perfectly functioning, such as: rice, fats, oil, flour, sugar and others that give energy.

Article 10 Body-Building Food

Body-Building Food is a food group that renders the body growing and immunizing against diseases, such as: meat, fish, milk, egg, various beans.

Article 11 Body-Regulating Food

Body-Regulating Food is a food group that is vital to physical and mental development of the body and increases the immunity against diseases, such as: vegetables, fruits, vitamins, iodized salt, and other minerals.

Section 2 Food Quality and Standard

Article 12 Food quality

Food quality is a specific characteristic of each food that makes the food safe, nutritional, and useful to the consumers health.

Article 13 Food standard

Food standard is a norms indicators that measures the characteristic of each type food.

Food shall comply with the standard of the Lao PDR.

The food standard of the Lao PDR shall consist of the basic contents as follows:

- safety
- hygiene
- nutrition

In case of Lao PDR standard do not exist, food shall comply with the standard, regulation and guidance prescribed by the International Codex Alimentarius.

The International Codex Alimentarius is the norms indicators that measures food standard which have been approved by the Food and Agriculture and World Health Organization.

Article 14 Safe food

Safe food is a food without contamination of bacteria, chemical substances toxic or adulterated agents that are dangerous to the consumers health.

Article 15 Hygienic food

Hygienic food is a food that has been produced by using all conditions and necessary measures to ensure the cleanness and safety of food at all steps in food activities starting from the production, processing, packaging, service etc... to the consumption.

Article 16 Nutritional food

Nutritional food is a food that is composed of energy-giving substance and body-building substance and renders regulating body in livelihood, such as flour, protein, fats, oils, vitamins, minerals and others which contain nutrients.

Part III

Food Activities and Business

Section 1 Food activities

Article 17 Food activities

Food activities are comprised of food primary production, preparation, service, industrial and handicraft production, storage, distribution, keeping, transportation, importation, exportation and donation.

Article 18 Food primary production

Food primary production comprises of cultivation, rearing, including forest products collection for food.

The cultivation and rearing for food shall be used all conditions and measures to ensure the safety and quality of produced food for the

Article 31 Obligations of the food business operator

Food business operator is required to ensure the safety, hygiene and quality of food. In the case that the unsafe food causes damages to consumers, the business operator is liable before the law. In addition the food business operation shall cooperated with food inspection Authorities for facilitating their duties.

Part IV Prohibitions

Article 32 Prohibitions in food production and preparation

In cultivation and growing for food it is forbidden to use the methods that may cause unsafe food or

Consumers are entitle to report to the relevant authorities on the processing, production, service, storage, distribution, importation of food that are unsafe, contaminated, adulterated or expired which are undertaken by the food business operators and suppliers to the society in order to take appropriate measures by the such relevant authorities for resolution.

- 8. cooperate with the foreign countries and international organizations in order to create all conditions favorable to facilitate the food management and inspection activities;
- 9. perform other rights and duties as prescribed by the laws.

Article 44 Rights and duties of the Provincial Health Authority/City

The Provincial Health Authority, City has the main rights and duties in food management and inspection as follows:

- 1. turn the policy, plans and decisions of the government on food management and inspection activities into plans, programs and projects in details:
- 2. implement the policy and strategic plans of food management and inspection activity, issued by the Ministry of Public Health and by oneself:
- 3. lead the District public health offices, Municipality in food management and inspection activities;
- 4. manage, inspect and control the quality of food produced, processed, distributed, imported, exported, donated in the area of its own responsibility in order to render the food qualified and standardized;
- 5. manage and inspect the food advertising in the area of its own responsibility;
- 6. instruct, disseminate the information data and promote the society to produce and consume safe and qualified food;
- 7. consider the complaint or proposal of the population relating to the food quality, standard and food activity management and inspection;
- 8. coordinate with the concerned sectors in food management and inspection in order to effectively realize the implementation of the adopted and promulgated laws and regulations on food;
- 9. perform other rights and duties as prescribed by the laws.

Article 45 Rights and duties of the office of District public health office/Munici722TDpr4the564/Munici7i4(hT0-1\$58red\(2\)2\(T\) J4t096Thlizicipnth 1\(\)

- 5. coordinate with the concerned sectors in food management and inspection in order to effectively realize the implementation of the adopted and promulgated laws and regulations on food;
- 6. perform other rights and duties as prescribed by the laws.

Article 46 Food inspection

Food inspection is the examination of food, raw materials, production, processing, packaging, service, storage, distribution, importation, exportation and donation of food, including the testing of the food productivity and food products commencing from the primary production to the finished products in order to ensure that food comply to quality and standard as prescribed by the laws.

Food inspection divides into tree types as follow:

- regular systematic inspection;
- inspection by advance notice;
- surprise inspection

The regular systematic inspection is an inspection conducted regularly following to the plans and in fixed periods.

The inspection by advance notice is an inspection conducted out of the plan, when deemed necessary that food business operator shall be notified in advance.

The surprise inspection is an urgent inspection conducted without any notice in advance to the food business operator to be inspected.

During the food inspection process, the inspectors shall properly and strictly implement following the laws and regulations.

Part VII Rewards and sanctions

Article 47 Rewards

Individuals or organizations having good deeds in implementing this law shall be rewarded and privileged from treatments determined in detail by the government.

Article 48 Measures towards violators

Individuals or organizations supplying food to the society that violate the provisions of this law shall be educated, fined or criminally punished, depending on the gravity of the breached acts, including the compensation of the damages occurred.

The food manager and inspector officials committing an offence in their duty performance, such as duty abandon, unlawful use of title, abuse of power, receiving of bribes, shall be educated, disciplined or criminally punished accordingly to the gravity of the violated acts.

Article 49 Educational measures

Individuals or organizations supplying food to the society that produce, process, service, store, distribute, import, export or donate the foods which are unqualified and dangerous to the health of the population shall be educated.

Article 50 Fines

Individuals or organizations as defined in Article 49 of this law that continue to commit such acts shall be fined.

Individuals or organizations that have supplied to the society the unsafe, non-standardized, adulterated, contaminated or expired food shall be fined.

The rates of the fines shall be separately determined in a specific regulation.

Article 51 Civil measures

Individuals or organizations supplying the food to the society that cause the damages to the consumers resulting from the production, processing, importation, exportation, service, storage, distribution, donation of unsafe, unqualified, non-standardized, adulterated, contaminated or expired food shall be repaired the damages occurred.

Article 52 Criminal measures

Individuals supplying the food to the society who produce, process, import, export, service, store, distribute, donate the unsafe, unhygienic, 251ds which-4.1ai/JTT \alpha(un)da(u)3us-5.2\soic)4.924ervresuT/J1 n\textbf{T}J1.1208 -1.151670D-.0

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