

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Manila

June 15, 1989

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No 13 s. 1989

To: All licensed Alcohol Distilleries, Distributors/Importers and concerned.

Subject: Methanol Content in Alcohol Beverages as defined by Memo-Circular 88-003

Whereas, there were several reported cases of alcohol related encephalopathy in 1987-1988;

Whereas, upon advice of medical groups, BFAD issued Memo Circular 88-002 which delimits Methanol in alcoholic beverages to zero (0) ppm;

Whereas, the methanol limit established in Memo Circular 88-003 subjects alcohol distilleries to BFAD Administrative actions;

Whereas, for practical reasons and some relevant data, the Phil. Association of Alcohol & Fermentation Technologist, Inc. (PAAFT) request to defer the implementation of Memo Circular 88-003;

Now therefore, to protect the consuming public and to avoid prejudice to alcohol distilleries in the Philippines and importers of alcoholic beverages, Memo Circular 88-003 is hereby modified as follows:

1. Methanol may be present in alcoholic beverages provided that it shall be derived from the natural alcohol fermentation process and not added;
2. Application for registration of imported alcoholic beverages shall include a) technical specifications of raw materials and finished product (including methanol content); b) a certificate of compliance with the country of origin's standards and regulation for alcoholic beverages; and c) a copy of standards and regulations stated in (b).
3. Application for registration of locally manufactured alcoholic beverages shall include a) technical specifications of raw materials and finished product (including methanol content) and b) source of ethyl alcohol, used as raw material for compounded alcoholic beverages.

4. Methanol content of unregistered alcoholic beverages may be justified with the manufacturer's submission of a) technical specifications of raw materials and finished product (including methanol content) and b) source of ethyl alcohol, used for raw material for compounded alcoholic beverages, showing that the methanol is derived from natural alcohol fermentation.

This circular supersedes all others inconsistent herewith and shall remain in effect until acceptable limit for methanol in alcoholic beverages shall have been established.

Cecile P/ Gonzalez, M.D.
Director

Noted:

Quintin L. Kintanar, M.D., Ph.D.
Asst. Secretary of Health for Standards & Regulations

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