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Korea – graphic health warnings on alcoholic beverages

The United States said it was concerned with the lack of clarity in the development of a proposed amendment to Korea's Public Health Promotion Act requiring new graphic warning labels on alcoholic beverages. The US said that while it supported the objective of managing the public health challenges related to drunk driving, it was concerned that this lack of clarity could result in an unnecessary disruption to trade. The US also asked Korea to make available details of its new graphic warning labels, and said the measure should be properly notified to the WTO with sufficient opportunity for members to comment.

Korea responded that the draft regulation is being assessed by the relevant regulatory agencies and that it is preparing a notification for the WTO on this issue. Korea stated its commitment to communicating effectively with stakeholders during the regulatory process.