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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Union Publishes Developments Regarding Identifying Endocrine Disruptors

- On December 20, the European Union (EU) [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the latest developments regarding the setting of scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the context of plant protection and biocidal products.
- The latest developments regarding criteria for plant protection products include the following:
 - EU Member States endorsed criteria on December 13 for the identification of endocrine disruptors, in the context of the plant protection products legislation, at the meeting of the Standing Committee for Plant, Animals, Food and Feed. The criteria take into account the views of the European Parliament, expressed on October 4, on an earlier draft regulation endorsed by member states in July (*BCI Monitor* 10-10-17).
 - If there are no objections from co-legislators, the draft regulation will eventually be adopted by the Commission
 - The European Chemicals Agency and the European Food Safety Authority have also launched a public consultation on the [draft technical guidance document](#) to implement the criteria once it becomes applicable. The [public consultation](#) is open until January 31, 2018.
- Further background information is available in the linked WTO notification. All relevant information is also published on the Commission's [website](#).

India Extends Compliance Deadline for Labelling Requirements

- On December 13, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) extended compliance timeline for the August 2016 guidelines related to the food import clearance process for primary foods such as fresh fruits.
- The August 2016 notification provided a transition period of six months to food business operators (FBOs); however, the most recent notification is extending the compliance date until the revised Food Safety and Standards (Labelling) Regulation is published.
- In addition to the already existing mandatory labelling requirements for primary foods imported in package, the following will be required: 1) net weight; 2) lot number, code number, or batch number; and 3) best before date, use by date, or date of expiry.
- More information is available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN [report](#).

India Operationalizes Amendments to Food Import Regulations

- On December 13, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a notice to announce that the Food Safety Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2017 went into effect December 6, 2017.

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India Operationalizes Amendments to Food Import Regulations

- Changes include requiring food importers to register with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, requiring a valid import-export code, and allowing imported foods to clear customs only if they have a valid shelf life of “not less than sixty percent, or three months, whichever is less at the time of import.”
- The amendments were published in June 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 6-27-17), and are available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN [report](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture Publishes Translation of China’s Documentation Requirement

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service has recently published an [unofficial translation](#) of China’s draft documentation requirement for imported foods.
- The draft measure was [notified](#) to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in June 2017, and while the proposed date of enforcement was set to be October 1, 2017, China allowed for a two-year transitional period until September 30, 2019 (*BCI Monitor* 9-26-17).
- The finalized measures are expected to be released in 2018.

Mediterranean Fruit Fly Found in Chile

- The Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) has detected a Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in Las Condes, a suburb of the capital city of Santiago. Chile is Latin America’s only fruit-fly-free country.
- According to media sources, SAG has announced that a systematic sampling operation has been put in place for fruit trees in residential areas with the aim of detecting possible instances of Medfly larvae and eggs.
- The detection is not near commercial production areas, and comes two years after successful efforts to contain and eradicate fruit fly in the country’s Valparaiso and Coquimbo regions. Chile is one of the world’s largest exporters of fresh fruit and other agricultural products. It is estimated that Chile’s agricultural sector employs nearly 20 percent of the national labor force, and accounts for approximately 8 percent of the GDP.

United States and South Korea to Hold Amendment Negotiations on Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

- With South Korea finishing the domestic requirements needed to begin amendment negotiations for the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) on December 18, the U.S. and Korean negotiating teams have [agreed](#) to meet on January 5, 2018 to discuss potential amendments and modifications to the agreement. The meeting will take place in Washington DC.
- The U.S. has not published a list of demands for the possible amendments to the agreement; however, at the first special session of the Joint Committee in August 2017, the U.S. requested that South Korea eliminate the tariffs that still remain on U.S. agricultural produce. The U.S. has not yet followed the relevant procedures under the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 required to pursue major changes to an agreement.
- The United States delegation at the meeting will be led by Michael Beeman, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Japan, Korea and APEC. The Republic of Korea delegation at the meeting will be led by Ms. Myung-hee Yoo, Director General from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE).

Updates to the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Generalized System of Preferences

- On December 22, the Executive Office of the President published a *Federal Register* [notification](#) regarding eligibility changes for certain countries under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) as well as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
- The nations of Gambia and Swaziland regained eligibility as beneficiary countries of AGOA. Both were suspended in 2014 for not making continual progress in meeting the requirements under the Trade Act of 1974.
- Argentina was reinstated to the GSP program due to its commitments to improve market access for U.S. agricultural products, and to increase protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. Argentina was suspended from the program in 2012 because it had not acted in good faith in enforcing arbitral awards to U.S. citizens, corporations, or associations.
- Lastly, Ukraine could lose some of its benefits under the GSP program because it has failed to provide adequate and effective protection of IP rights. Ukraine was given 120 days from the publication of the notification to rectify the situation.