

**General Issues of Interest to the CCB:**

**Indonesia Renews Recognition for U.S. Fresh Foods of Plant Origin**

* On January 5, the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture issued Decree No. 35/2018 renewing the U.S. Fresh Foods of Plant Origin (FFPO) recognition for 89 commodities, including cherries, for an additional three years.
* The FFPO recognition allows for faster customs processing times and fewer documentation processes for U.S. exporters. Additionally, it grants access to Jakarta’s Tanjung Priok Port. The U.S. is one of only eight nations to receive national recognition for food safety control systems for FFPO.
* More information is available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN [report](https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FAS%20Jakarta%20Obtains%20Fresh%20Food%20of%20Plant%20Origin%20Recognition%20Renewal%20%20_Jakarta_Indonesia_10-01-2018.pdf).

**Aff****irmation of Addition of Treatments for Aircraft for Certain Hitchhiking Pests**

* The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has [affirmed](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/16/2018-00569/notice-of-affirmation-of-addition-of-treatments-for-aircraft-for-certain-hitchhiking-pests?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email) an earlier determination that it was necessary to add two new treatment schedules for the cargo holds of aircraft for regulated pests to the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual.
* One of the chemical treatments is T409-b-3, an aerosol spray with `1-Shot' treatment containing 2 percent d-phenothrin and 2 percent permethrin to mitigate the risk of Japanese beetle and other hitchhiking pests (*BCI Monitor* 8-15-17). The Japanese beetle is known to affect over 300 varieties of trees, shrubs, and non-woody plants including cherry blossom trees.
* The addition of the treatments is affirmed as of January 16, 2018.

**Japan Amending Food Sanitation Act**

* On January 16, Japan [notified](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S007.aspx?PostingDateFrom=13%2f01%2f2018&PostingDateTo=16%2f01%2f2018&FullTextHash=371857150&AllTranslationsCompleted=1&Id=241582&PageAnchorPosition=241582&SearchPagePageNumber=10&SearchPageCurrentIndex=0&SearchPageViewStatePageIndex=0&SearchPageStartRowIndex=0&returnedPage=FE_S_S006.aspx&IsNotification=True&LeftTabFieldText=&NumberOfHits=53&DreReference=&Query=&Context=RD&btsType=&IsEnglishSelected=True&IsFrenchSelected=False&IsSpanishSelected=False&IsAllLanguageSelected=False&SearchPage=&SourcePage=FE_S_S002&Language=E&) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of an amendment to the “Food Sanitation Act” that aims to improve the sanitary regulations for utensils, containers, and packaging for food.
* The government of Japan is planning to introduce a positive list system that will allow for only substances whose safety has been evaluated to be used for utensils, containers, and packaging for food. Substances not approved for use based on risk assessment will be prohibited.

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**January 16, 2018**

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*Japan Amending Food Sanitation Act*

* Currently, in Japan, the safety of food utensils, containers, and packaging is regulated with a negative list system that regulates the use of substances only whose specifications and standards are established based on the “Food Sanitation Act.”
* The final date for comments is 60 days from the WTO notification, and the proposed date of adoption is between April to July 2018. When adopted, the amendment will be published in the official Japanese Government Gazette.

**Taiwan Amending Requirements for Food Traceability**

* On January 15, Taiwan [notified](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S007.aspx?PostingDateFrom=13%2f01%2f2018&PostingDateTo=16%2f01%2f2018&FullTextHash=371857150&AllTranslationsCompleted=1&Id=241549&PageAnchorPosition=241549&SearchPagePageNumber=10&SearchPageCurrentIndex=3&SearchPageViewStatePageIndex=0&SearchPageStartRowIndex=30&returnedPage=FE_S_S006.aspx&IsNotification=True&LeftTabFieldText=&NumberOfHits=53&DreReference=&Query=&Context=RD&btsType=&IsEnglishSelected=True&IsFrenchSelected=False&IsSpanishSelected=False&IsAllLanguageSelected=False&SearchPage=&SourcePage=FE_S_S002&Language=E&) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of [proposed amendments](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2018/TBT/TPKM/18_0368_00_e.pdf) to the “Regulations Governing Traceability of Foods and Relevant Products.”
* In addition to the previously required information, the proposed amendments will require food business to have a traceability system that includes:
	+ Labelling information for foods containing ingredients of genetically modified organisms;
	+ Name, weight, volume, lot/batch number, expiry date, and recall reason for recalled products;
	+ Name, weight, volume, lot/batch number, expiry date, sales return reason and records of follow-up measures for returned products;
	+ Name, weight, volume, lot/batch number, expiry date, inferior (including discard) reason and follow-up measures for inferior products (including discard items);
	+ Name, weight, volume, lot/batch number, and expiry date for inventory materials and products; and
	+ Name, weight, volume, lot/batch number, expiry date, and follow-up measures for products that have passed their expiry date.
* The final date for comments is 60 days from the WTO notification.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture Trade Mission to Central America**

* The U.S. Department of Agriculture will lead a trade mission to Central America from February 26 to March 1, 2018. The mission will be based in Guatemala, but participants will also be able to connect with potential customers from Honduras and El Salvador.
* The U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) entered into force in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in 2006 and, since then, U.S. farm and food exports have more than doubled. More than 95 percent of U.S. agricultural products enjoy duty-free access under CAFTA-DR.
* For additional information, see the following [announcement](https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/central-america-february-2018) or email trademissions@fas.usda.gov.

**Georgia-China Free Trade Agreement Comes into Force**

* The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Georgia came into force and was implemented on January 1, 2018.
* The [China-Georgia FTA](http://www.economy.ge/index.php?page=news&nw=206&s=tavisufali-vachrobis-shesaxeb-shetanxmeba-saqartvelos-mtavrobasa-da-chinetis-saxalxo-respublikis-mtavrobas-shoris) (in Georgian) is the first FTA China has signed with a Eurasian country, and is the first FTA that China has initiated and achieved since its Belt and Road Initiative was put forward. Negotiations were launched in December 2015, and the agreement was signed in May 2017.
* Georgia has imposed zero tariffs on 96.5% of Chinese goods, covering 99.6% of the total imports from China. China has imposed zero tariffs on 93.9% of Georgia’s products, covering 93.8% of China's total imports from Georgia. Regarding trade in services, both sides will further open their markets to each other on the basis of their World Trade Organization commitments.
* Trade between Georgia and China increased substantially in the past 10 years. Between 2007-2016, trade increased by 534%, with Georgian exports to China increasing by 1,967%, and imports increasing by 164%. China is one of Georgia’s main trading partners.