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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### Taiwan Proposes Amendments to the Inspection Regulations for Imported Foods

- On February 7, The Ministry of Health and Welfare of Taiwan [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a [proposal to partially amend](#) provisions of the "[Regulations of Inspection of Imported Foods and Related Products](#)." Taiwan notified the WTO of similar amendments in August 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 8-15-17).
- The relevant amendments are as follows:
  - Obligatory Inspection Applicants must submit the Consolidated Import Declaration along with relevant permits when applying for import inspection;
  - Removal of pre-declaration provisions;
  - Addition of an alternative method of product sampling for applicants who are suspended for applying for the prior release of products;
  - Conditions for applying for prior release of products;
  - Conditions for the payment and refund of guarantee bonds;
  - Time limit for Obligatory Inspection Applicants applying for re-inspection when the imported products do not conform to relevant regulations is set at 15 days.
- The final date for comments is April 8, 2018.

### Standardization of U.S. Phytosanitary Treatment Regulations

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has published a [notice](#) in the *Federal Register* regarding a final rule on standardizing phytosanitary treatment regulations, approving cold treatment and irradiation facilities, cold treatment schedules, and establishing fumigation and cold treatment compliance agreements.
- The phytosanitary treatment regulations are being amended to establish generic criteria that would allow for the approval of new cold treatment facilities in the United States. Additionally, the fruit cutting and inspection requirements in the cold treatment regulations are being amended to expand cutting and inspection to commodities that have been treated for a wider variety of pests of concern.
- Requirements concerning the establishment of compliance agreements for U.S. entities that operate fumigation facilities are to be added, and the language concerning state compliance with facility establishment and parameters for the movement of consignments from the port of entry in the U.S. to the treatment facilities in the irradiation treatment regulations is being harmonized with the cold treatment regulations.
- Changes are effective March 14, 2018.

### Generalized System of Preferences Upcoming Renewal

- A [bill](#) to renew the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for another three years was introduced in the House of Representatives on February 8. The trade preferences program – which cuts tariffs on a slew of products for qualifying developing countries – expired at the end of 2017. According to media sources, the vote on the GSP program is set for February 13. The bill is expected to pass in the House, but it will also need to be approved in the Senate.
- The program has expired periodically since its creation in 1976, but has always been renewed by Congress, often after long lapses. Previously, GSP renewals after lapses have included a retroactive clause allowing importers to receive refunds for duties paid on GSP-eligible goods imported during the lapse period.
- More information regarding the GSP program is available [here](#).

### Australia and Peru Sign Free Trade Agreement

- Australia and Peru signed the [Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement](#) (PAFTA) on February 12, after concluding negotiations for PAFTA in November 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 11-14-17).
- While Peru and Australia are members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the market access granted under PAFTA goes beyond the CPTPP agreement. PAFTA will eliminate tariffs on 99 percent of Australian exports and 96 percent of Peruvian exports within five years of the Agreement's entry into force.
- Australia hopes PAFTA will serve as a gateway to Latin America, and to value chains between Asia and the Americas. It is also a stepping-stone to a trade agreement with the Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Peru). In 2016, two-way trade between Australia and Peru totaled AUD \$590 million.
- The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement eliminate tariffs on most U.S. products.

### European Union and Chile Hold Talks to Modernize Trade Agreement

- The second round for the modernization of the trade part of the EU-Chile Association Agreement took place in Santiago, Chile from January 15-19, 2018. These were the first substantive discussions on trade issues after the launch of the negotiations on November 16, 2017.
- The negotiating teams covered a broad range of issues such as the facilitation of customs procedures, trade in services, rules of origin, and intellectual property. The EU-Chile Association Agreement entered into force in February 2003 and led to a substantial increase in the trade in goods due to the comprehensive free trade agreement. Since the entry into force of the Association Agreement in 2003, EU exports to Chile have risen by 170 percent, with imports rising by around 50 percent.
- The next round of talks has not been scheduled yet. The European Commission has [released](#) its proposals and reports on this round of negotiations.

### Codex Notifies World Trade Organization of Upcoming Meetings

- On February 9, the Codex Alimentarius (Codex) secretariat [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of upcoming Codex meetings of possible interest. Unless otherwise noted, provisional agendas for each meeting are available in the following linked documents:
  - [12th Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods](#) (Utrecht, Netherlands, March 12-16, 2018).
  - [50th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues](#) (Haikou, China, April 9-14, 2018).
  - [39th Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling](#) (Budapest, Hungary, May 7-11, 2018). The provisional agenda is not yet available.
  - [75th Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission](#) (Rome, Italy, June 26-29, 2018). The provisional agenda is not yet available.
  - [41st Codex Alimentarius Commission Rome](#) (Rome, Italy, July 2-6, 2018). The provisional agenda is not yet available.
  - [76th Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission](#) (Rome, Italy, July 7, 2018). The provisional agenda is not yet available.
- Additionally, the WTO notification provides updates on Codex sessions that have taken place since November 2017.