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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD****GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:****U.S.-China Talks to Continue This Week**

- The third round of U.S.-China trade talks wrapped up on February 15 in Beijing, China. According to a White House [press release](#), “intensive discussions led to progress between the two parties,” but “much work remains.”
- During last week’s talks, progress was made in sketching out a memorandum of understanding, which could serve as a framework for a more formal deal that would be finalized at a later date.
- The U.S. and China are hoping to sign a memorandum of understanding before the March 1 deadline, after which U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods will increase.
- While U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer firmly maintains that the deadline for talks is March 1, President Trump has recently remarked that there is a possibility for extending that date.
- Discussions will continue in Washington, DC this week at the ministerial and vice-ministerial levels.

**Report on U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement Delayed**

- Due to a lapse in government funding, the International Trade Commission (ITC) has changed the date on which it will transmit its report on the probable economic effect of providing duty-free treatment for currently dutiable imports under a potential U.S.-Japan free trade agreement.
- ITC will send its report to the U.S. Trade Representative on February 28, 2019, rather than on January 24, 2019 as previously scheduled.
- More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#).

**Public Hearing and Comment Deadlines Extended for Analysis of a U.S.-EU Trade Agreement**

- Due to a lapse in government funding, the International Trade Commission (ITC) is extending the deadlines for the investigation and public hearing on the probable economic effects of providing duty-free treatment for currently dutiable exports under a U.S.-EU Trade Agreement.
- The ITC extended the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs and all other written submissions from January 4, 2019 to February 13, 2019, and it will transmit its report to the USTR by April 23, 2019 instead of by March 19, 2019.
- More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#), published on February 15, 2019.

### Public Hearing and Comment Deadlines Extended for the Analysis of a U.S.-UK Trade Agreement

- Due to a lapse in government funding, the International Trade Commission (ITC) is extending the deadlines for the investigation and public hearing on the probable economic effects of providing duty-free treatment for currently dutiable exports under a U.S.-UK Trade Agreement.
- The deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing was extended from January 10, 2019 to February 14, 2019. The deadline for filing prehearing briefs and statements has been extended from January 14, 2019 to February 19, 2019.
- The public hearing has been rescheduled from January 31, 2019 to March 6, 2019.
- The deadline for filing post-hearing briefs and all other written submissions has been extended from February 11, 2019 to March 18, 2019.
- The ITC report to the USTR will be delivered by June 12, 2019 instead of by May 8, 2019.
- More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#), published on February 15, 2019.

### Deadlines Extended for Investigation on Effects of Duty Suspensions and Reductions on the U.S. Economy

- Due to a lapse in government funding, the International Trade Commission (ITC) is extending the deadlines for the investigation into the effects on the U.S. economy of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, as required by the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016.
- The ITC has extended the deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing from February 19, 2019 to March 18, 2019, and has extended the deadline for filing prehearing briefs and statements from February 22, 2019 to March 21, 2019.
- The ITC has rescheduled a public hearing from March 5, 2019 to April 8, 2019.
- The deadline for filing post-hearing briefs has been extended from March 12, 2019 to April 15, 2019 and that for filing all other written submissions has been extended from March 22, 2019 to April 23, 2019.
- ITC will transmit its report by October 18, 2019 instead of by September 13, 2019.
- More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#) and the original *Federal Register* [notice](#).

### Thailand Publishes Draft Regulation on Maximum Levels of Contaminants and Toxins in Food

- On February 14, Thailand [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a [draft Ministry of Public Health \(MOPH\) regulation](#) (in Thai) on maximum levels for contaminants and toxins in food.
- The MOPH draft regulation revokes several older MOPH regulations regarding maximum requirements in foods, as laid out in Annex I.
- The draft regulation, in Annex II, sets out the maximum levels for heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other contaminants in foods.
- The final date for comments is April 15, 2019. This draft regulation will come into force on the date of publication in the Thai Government Gazette. Manufacturers and importers of food will have 180 days from the date of entry into force to be compliant with the regulation.

### China Holds Public Consultation on Food Safety Sampling Inspection Management Method

- On February 2, China opened a [public consultation](#) on its [Food Safety Sampling Inspection Management Method](#).
- The competent authority has changed from China's Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) to China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR). The re-inspection application period has been extended from 5 days to 7 days and inspection procedures for foods purchased online were established.
- Comments can be submitted to the [Opinion Solicitation System](#) by March 4, 2019. All links in Chinese.