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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

France Continues Ban on Imported Cherries from Countries that Use Dimethoate

- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) recently [published](#) a report on France's reinstatement of its ban on the import and sale of cherries from countries that permit the use of dimethoate on cherries and cherry trees.
- On April 6, 2018, France reinstated the ban, which had previously been applied in both 2016 and 2017 as a safeguard measure permitted by Article 54 of [EU Regulation 178/2002](#).
- France implemented the ban over concerns that dimethoate is dangerous to human health. In February 2016, the French Food and Environment Safety Agency did not renew the approval for use of dimethoate on cherries in France due to a suspected danger to human health.
- U.S. cherry exports to France will be prohibited until April 5, 2019.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Union Publishes Corrections to Regulation on Identifying Endocrine Disruptors

- On May 2, the European Union published [Corrigendum to Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2018/605](#) regarding criteria for determining endocrine disruptors.
- The following corrections have been made to [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2018/605](#):
 - References to date of effect changed from October 20, 2018 to November 10, 2018.
 - Date that the Commission will present on experience gained from the application of the criteria changed from October 20, 2025 to November 10, 2025.

U.S. Trade Representative Targets Mid-May for Completion of NAFTA Negotiations

- Trade representatives from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada reconvened in Washington D.C. on May 7 under pressure to reach an agreement in principle on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

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U.S. Trade Representative Targets Mid-May for Completion of NAFTA Negotiations

- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer hopes to conclude negotiations for an agreement in principle in May to allow enough time for the current Congress to vote on it. However, despite the tight timeline, Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo is insistent that the countries reach a fully renegotiated NAFTA deal, not an agreement in principle that would leave many details to be worked out later.
- Among the remaining roadblocks include the U.S.'s investor state dispute settlement proposal, the intellectual property chapter, and the proposed sunset clause.

India Revises Microbiological Standards for Fruits and Vegetables

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the "[Food Products Standard and Food Additives Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2018](#)" revising the microbiological standards for fruits and vegetables and their products.
- Table 4A gives the sampling plan and limits for aerobic plate count, yeast and mold count, *Enterobacteriaceae*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Coagulase +ve). There are no sampling plans or applicable limits for fresh fruit and vegetables; however, there are sampling plans and limits for cut or minimally processed and packaged fruit and vegetables.
- Table 4B gives the sampling plan and limits for *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *E. Coli* 0157 and Vero or Shiga toxin producing *E. coli*, and *Vibrio cholerae*. There are no sampling plans or applicable limits for fresh fruit and vegetables; however, there are sampling plans and limits for cut or minimally processed and packaged fruit and vegetables.
- The regulation has come into force and Food Business Operators must comply with all the provisions of the regulation by January 1, 2019.

Japan Phytosanitary Certificate Requirement

- On May 7, Japan [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a change to the phytosanitary certificate requirement for plants and plant products.
- Japan will no longer accept the importation of plants without a phytosanitary certificate. Recently, Japan has been accepting the importation of plants and plant products without a phytosanitary certificate if they were commercial samples or gifts, or if they were imported by mail or hand-carried. Due to quarantine pest issues, phytosanitary certificates will be required for all plants and plant products.
- The proposed date of adoption is as soon as possible after the required comment period closes. The proposed date of entry into force is October 1, 2018.