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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Zika Requirements Implemented for U.S. Shipments

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has provided an update on the Zika-related mosquito disinsection requirements for U.S. exports, following a recent meeting between the U.S. Embassy and China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) in Beijing.
- Since March 2016, China has required disinsection for shipments from its list of Zika-affected countries. The United States was added to this list as of August 5, 2016. As a result, all shipments (both air and sea vessels) departing from the United States after August 5th are required to provide proof of disinsection upon entry into the Chinese port.
- Disinsection (not to be confused with disinfection) means the killing of all mosquitos, their larva, and eggs. Disinsection may be completed through physical or chemical means, and does not necessarily require fumigation. Physical means could include trapping, air curtains, or other integrated pest management techniques. Chemical means include surface spraying, space spraying, or fumigation.
- The requirement for proof of disinsection applies to both sea and air freight shipments.
- For ocean freight, the disinsection requirement applies to the container or vessel. The shipper may choose to individually disinsect containers. However, if the entire vessel can provide proof of disinsection, then certificates for each individual container are not needed; one certificate for the entire vessel is sufficient. The only exemption is for refrigerated containers chilled below 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit); proof of disinsection is not required for refrigerated containers, though the vessel on which the refrigerated containers are loaded will need to provide proof of disinsection.
- As for air freight, the aircraft used to transport cargo to China should be disinsected prior to cargo loading and provide proof, in the form of a certificate, that the aircraft is free of mosquitoes.
- Local Chinese inspectors will continue with their selective examination procedures and there will not be a separate Zika-related inspection process. However, should the shipment be inspected and live mosquito eggs, larva, or mosquitoes are found during the inspection, disinsection will be required (including for refrigerated containers).
- Further information on this new requirement can be found in the FAS summary document linked [here](#). Additionally, please see the [unofficial English translation](#) of the Chinese requirement and a template of the [disinsection certificate](#) to accompany shipments.

Eurasian Economic Union Ratifies Free Trade Agreement with Vietnam

- On July 28, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) completed ratification procedures for its free trade agreement (FTA) with Vietnam, according to a [notice](#) (in Russian) published by the Eurasian Economic Commission. This is the first FTA with a third country to be ratified by the EAEU, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

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- The FTA provides for the immediate removal of customs duties on nearly 60 percent of traded products and the gradual elimination of duties on the majority of remaining products by 2027. The agreement is scheduled to enter into force on October 5, 2016.
- Vietnam's ten percent tariff on cherries (HS 0809.29) from the EAEU, as well as the EAEU's five percent tariff on cherries from Vietnam, will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force.
- Since its inception in January 2015, a number of countries have submitted proposals indicating interest in possible FTAs with the EAEU. The EAEU is currently conducting a feasibility study to determine the potential of a multilateral FTA between the EAEU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes Vietnam and nine other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Update on Australian Stone Fruit Sector

- Australian cherry production is expected to remain at 16,000 metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY) 2016/17. Australia is a relatively small producer of cherries, accounting for approximately one percent of global output.
- While Australia's cherry exports are projected to remain unchanged in MY 2016/17 from the previous season's export figure of 6,000 MT, it is anticipated that cherry exports will rise in the future due to increasing foreign demand and expanded production as a result of tree maturation. Hong Kong is the leading export destination, accounting for 45 percent of Australian cherry export volumes in 2015. Singapore, China, and South Korea are the next largest export markets for Australian cherries. Exports to South Korea in particular are expected to grow as demand increases and Korea's tariff on Australian cherries is gradually eliminated through the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA), which entered into force in December 2014.
- The United States is the primary supplier of cherries to Australia. Imports from the U.S. are typically marketed between July and September and therefore do not compete directly with Australian cherries, which are available between October and February.
- Additional information about Australia's stone fruit sector is available in the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [GAIN report](#).

India Amends Labeling Requirement Guidelines for Fresh Packaged Food Imports

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently published new [guidelines](#) regarding its labeling requirements for primary foods imported in packages. The guidelines apply to packaged imports of primary food including grains, pulses, and fruits.
- According to the guidelines, the following new labeling requirements must be included on packages: 1) net weight; 2) lot number/ code number/ batch number; and 3) best before or use by date or date of expiry. Additionally, the document specifies the name and address of the importer can be verified with the consignment's accompanying documents.
- The guidelines establish a grace period of six months to allow for compliance. Additional information about the guidelines is available in the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [GAIN report](#).

Quarantine Restrictions Removed for European Grapevine Moth in California

- Quarantine restrictions for European grapevine moth (EGVM) have ended in California following the eradication of the pest, according to a recent [news release](#) published by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- Although the pest primarily damages grapes, it is also potentially harmful to stone fruit crops. EGVM was first detected in Napa County in 2009 with subsequent detections occurring in multiple counties from 2010-2012. Quarantine measures helped reduce the number of EGVM detections from over 100,000 in 2010 to 144 in 2011. EGVM has not been detected in California since June 2014.
- The successful completion of the eradication program was the result of a collective effort carried out by CDFA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) together with stakeholders including growers and local officials.

International Longshore and Warehouse Union to Discuss Contract Extension with Pacific Maritime Association

- At a meeting in San Francisco from August 10-12, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) agreed to begin contract extension negotiations with their employer, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).
- In a [statement](#), the ILWU announced it will report back to members following discussions with PMA. Representatives from the PMA are aiming to schedule the meeting within the next 30-60 days.
- The ILWU represents approximately 20,000 longshore workers at West Coast ports in the U.S. While the current contract between the ILWU and PMA does not expire until June 2019, both sides are making an effort to avoid the disruptions that occurred at West Coast ports during contentious contract negotiations in 2014 and 2015. An early contract extension would increase confidence in the continued stability and competitiveness of West Coast ports.