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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Canadian Import Regulations Enter into Force

- Starting January 15, 2020, importers must have a [Safe Food for Canadians \(SFC\)](#) license to import food into Canada for most food products, including fresh fruit.
- Some pre-existing registrations or licenses issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) remain valid under the new regulations. Information and guidance is provided on the [CFIA website](#).

South Korea Proposes Regulations on Health Claims

- South Korea [notified the WTO](#) of [proposed restrictions](#) (in Korean) on health claims for food. No date of adoption has been proposed.
- According to the WTO notification, the proposed regulations establish a standard of scientific evidence required to allow health claims and restrict the scope of permitted health claims.
- In order to cite specific nutrients in health claims (e.g. "An excellent source of Vitamin X"), the food would be required to contain at least 30% of the recommended daily intake of that nutrient per serving.
- Comments on the proposal are due to the International Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety at intmfds@korea.kr by March 10.

South Korea Proposes Food Safety Revisions

- The Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety [notified the WTO](#) of proposed revisions to the [Standards and Specifications for Foods](#) (in Korean), published December 30, 2019.
- The proposed revisions include changes to irradiation regulations such as removing x-ray inspections from the definition of food irradiation and revising the list of foods subject to maximum radioactivity limits.
- The regulation would also revise the list of ingredients of plant origin in the "Classification of Food Ingredients."
- Comments are due by March 9, 2020 to the Ministry's International Cooperation Office at wtokfda@korea.kr

FSANZ Considers Allowing Irradiation for All Fresh Produce

- On January 7, Food Standards Australia/New Zealand (FSANZ) released an [administrative assessment report](#) on a [proposal](#) to allow irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables, including imported produce.
- The proposal, which was submitted by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, suggests that irradiation could be a useful substitute for methyl bromide treatment, due to the latter's health and environmental effects.
- This proposal is still in the early stages of regulatory development. If the proposal is approved, a draft measure would be proposed in March 2021, with final gazettal possible by October 2021.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Cherries May Become Largest Chilean Fruit Export

- According to fruit industry media, the Chilean Exporters' Association (ASOEX) presented revised data for the 2019-20 Chilean fruit season. Chilean cherry exports have reportedly increased by nearly 30% over the same period in the previous season. Currently, ASOEX projects that cherries will be Chile's most valuable fruit export this season.
- The increase in cherry exports was attributed to the rapidly growing demand in China, which is Chile's primary market for cherries.
- Exports of most other Chilean fruits stagnated in 2019, largely due to a severe drought in central Chile that limited production of grapes, apples, and kiwifruit.

Japan Proposes Changes to Plant Import Regulations

- Japan [notified the WTO](#) of [proposed revisions](#) to its plant protection regulations. This includes changes to the quarantine pest list, the non-quarantine pest list, and some import regulations.
- There do not appear to be any changes to the import requirements for California cherries, and none of the pests added to the quarantine pest list are known to affect sweet cherries.
- Comments are due by March 9 to the Standards Information Service at enquiry@mofa.go.jp

U.S. to Remove China from Currency Manipulation List

- The U.S. Treasury Department announced it will remove China from the official list of currency-manipulating countries before the signing of the U.S.-China trade agreement. While the full text of the bilateral agreement has not been released, the Trump administration has stated that it contains language to address currency manipulation.
- At the direction of President Trump, the Treasury labeled China a currency manipulator in August 2019, amid escalating trade tensions [*BCI Monitor*: 8-6-19].