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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Argentina Reduces Export Taxes on Specialty Crops

- On December 31, 2020 Argentina published [Decree 1060/2020](#) (in Spanish) amending the export tax rates for many products, including specialty crops. The adjusted export tax rates are listed in [Annex 1](#) by H.S. code.
- Of note to CCB, fresh cherries, other than sour (H.S. 0809.29.00) now have no export tax applied.
- A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) notes that the Argentine government seeks to boost exports and encourage investments in these crops.

Costa Rica Notifies List of Regulated Pests

- Costa Rica [notified the WTO](#) (in Spanish) that it adopted the [List of Regulated Pests of Costa Rica 2020](#) (in Spanish) on December 15, 2020.
- The list includes the pest name, type, status, and impacted regulated products.

Japan Conducts Consultation on Imported Food Monitoring and Guidance Plan

- Japan is [conducting a public consultation](#) on its draft [Reiwa 3rd Year Imported Food Monitoring and Guidance Plan](#) (in Japanese). Once adopted, the plan will cover April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022.
- According to an informal translation of the [outline and summary document](#) (in Japanese), the plan outlines goals and guidance for food safety inspection in the upcoming year.
- Table 1 notes the number of inspections Japan plans to carry out by product category and substance. Of importance to CCB, Japan intends to carry out 19,000 inspections on vegetables, fruits, and other fresh commodities. Inspections will test for:
 - Antibacterial substances, etc.
 - Pesticide Residues
 - Additives
 - Pathogenic microorganisms
 - Compliance with food standards, etc.
 - Mold poison
 - Genetically modified foods
 - Radiation irradiation
- Table 2 provides basic guidance for importers, by food category, regarding what hazards are to be checked at the time of import, in advance of import, in periodic reviews (including at the time of first import), and during transportation and storage.
- Comments are due by February 16, 2021. According to an informal translation of the provided [solicitation procedure document](#) (in Japanese), the comments must be made in Japanese.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Canada Undergoing Technical Consultation on BPA Analogues, Alternatives

- Two Canadian agencies, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada (HC), launched a [technical consultation](#) proposing grouping 343 chemicals as BPA structural analogues and alternatives.
- As use of BPAs has become more restricted and consumer and market shifts toward “BPA-free” products, BPA alternatives have seen increases in use.
- The consultation also seeks comments on methods used to identify BPA analogues and functional alternatives, suitability of chemicals as members of the broader group, and the proposed subgrouping of substances.

USTR Publishes 2020 Reports on WTO Compliance by China and Russia

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative [released its annual reports](#) on China’s and Russia’s compliance with the WTO’s rules, criticizing both for unfair trade practices.
- Agriculture-specific sections start on page 51 of the [China](#) report and page 18 of the [Russia](#) report.
- The report on China highlights that despite expanded U.S. agricultural exports in 2020 under the Phase One agreement, China remain an unpredictable export market for U.S. agricultural products with inconsistent enforcement of regulations.
- The report on Russia notes Russia’s many non-tariff barriers and that in 2020 the U.S. continued to raise concerns to the WTO on Russia’s subsidization of railway freight and other agriculture-related activities.

USDA Publishes Quarterly Update on European Green Deal

- A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) provides consolidated reporting of many regulatory updates related to the EU Green Deal from October to December 2020.
- The report includes regulatory updates under the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Target Plan, EU Methane Strategy, and Circular Economy Action Plan. Included are updates on front-of-pack, animal welfare, country of origin, and expiration date labeling; food additive, biotechnology, and pesticide use regulations; environmental targets; and dates for forthcoming events related to the Green Deal.