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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement Enters into Force

- The recently agreed U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement came into force on January 1, after it was ratified by the Japanese Diet and signed by President Trump.
- The agreement lowers or eliminates Japanese tariffs on U.S. products, including cherries. The specific tariff rates and reduction schedules are available in [Japan's tariff schedule](#) under the agreement and were described in detail in a previous edition of the BCI Monitor. [BCI Monitor: 10-8-19]

U.S.-China Trade Agreement to be Signed January 15

- President Donald Trump announced that the recently agreed-upon U.S.-China deal will be signed on January 15 in Washington, D.C.
- This agreement lowers some existing U.S. tariffs by 7.5% and ensure that tariffs previously scheduled for December 15 will not take effect. China has reportedly committed to increasing its purchases of agricultural goods, but few details have been released.

China Publishes Draft Standards

- On December 31, 2019, China [opened consultations](#) on [several draft regulations](#) for food products. The standards include regulations for the following (all in Chinese):
 - [Maximum mycotoxin levels](#) in food
 - According to the introduction, this proposed regulation modifies the limits for Aflatoxin B1 and M1, deoxynivalenol, and fumonisin.
 - [Labeling standards](#) for prepackaged foods
 - This regulation modifies the definition of prepackaged food, requirements for ingredient lists, required font size on food labels, and special requirements for labeling food that contains allergens or genetically modified ingredients.
 - [Maximum contaminants levels](#) in food
 - This regulation modifies the maximum limits for lead, cadmium, arsenic, PCBs, and benzo(a)pyrene.
 - [Pathogenic bacteria](#) in bulk food
 - This regulation establishes pathogenic bacteria indicators in bulk foods, their limit requirements, and the inspection methods used to determine compliance.
 - [Pathogenic bacteria](#) in prepackaged food
 - This regulation increases the limits of pathogenic bacteria in dairy products and amends several other limits.
- Comments on all regulations are due by February 28, in Chinese, using the comment form included with each regulation.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chilean Fruit Launches U.S. Marketing Campaign

- The Chilean Exporters Association (ASOEX) [announced](#) that the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association of North America has launched a 2020 campaign to promote Chilean fruit, including cherries.
- This year's campaign will largely focus on Super Bowl-themed ads with ESPN and consumer contests, with promotions occurring January-March. Chilean cherries will only be promoted in January.

Argentina's Good Agricultural Practices Come into Force

- [Requirements for agricultural production](#) (in Spanish) in Argentina entered into force on January 1. These requirements do not apply to imports but may be of interest due to their relevance to the Argentine cherry industry.
- The good agricultural practices (GAP) requirements are part of a long-term effort to overhaul Argentina's agricultural regulations and strengthen the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA). [*BCI Monitor*: 11-26-19]