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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

San Mateo County Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantine Removed

- Effective October 4, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has ended the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly – *Ceratitis capitata*) quarantine in the Half Moon Bay area of San Mateo County.
- The Half Moon Bay quarantine was the only Medfly quarantine area in the state of California.
- More information regarding Medfly is available at the CDFA [website](#).

Amendments to Australian Imported Food Control Act

- Australia's *Imported Food Control Amendment Act 2018* has received royal assent on September 21, 2018. The Imported Food Control Amendment Act introduces changes to the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*.
- Some changes will come into effect from September 2018 including allowing food to be temporarily held at the border if it poses serious risk to human health, the recognition of a foreign country's food safety regulatory system if that system is deemed equivalent to Australia's system (note, the U.S. is already recognized), and the ability to vary the inspection and testing rates for imported food.
- Changes coming into force September 2019 include a food safety management certificate and requirements for traceability records. Currently no imported foods require a food safety management certificate for import into Australia. There will be further notices regarding which foods will require this certificate.
- More information regarding the changes is available at the following Department of Agriculture and Water Resources [Food Notice](#).

European Union and United States Looking to Increase Regulatory Cooperation

- The European Commission is circulating a document among member states noting possibilities for regulatory cooperation with the United States, according to media sources.
- The document discusses testing procedures, car safety, health technologies, and new technologies in robotics or cybersecurity where the U.S. and the European Union (EU) could agree to more regulatory cooperation.

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European Union and United States Looking to Increase Regulatory Cooperation

- Trade ministers from EU member states met in Austria on October 5 to discuss EU-U.S. relations. Following the meeting, European Trade commissioner Cecilia Malmström told reporters that the U.S. and EU are currently focusing on regulatory cooperation. The potential regulatory cooperation comes from a July agreement between President Donald Trump and EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to reduce barriers and increase trade.
- Malmström has met with U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer twice in September to work towards this goal.

Japan Invites United Kingdom to Join Trans Pacific Partnership

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently told reporters that Japan would welcome the United Kingdom to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) after Brexit.
- The United Kingdom had previously shown interest in joining the 11-nation agreement; however, is unable to begin any official trade negotiations before exiting the European Union (EU).
- PM Abe added that the United Kingdom would only be able to join the CPTPP if it left the EU customs union and had the power to set its own tariff rates.

International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Activities

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is informing the public of the international standard-setting activities of the World Organization for Animal Health, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and soliciting public comment on the standards to be considered.
- The IPPC at its 2018 meeting adopted a number of standards including:
 - Revision of Annex 1 and Annex 2 to ISPM 15, for inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment sulphuryl fluoride fumigation and revision of the dielectric heating section.
 - ISPM 42: Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure.
- In addition to adopting these plant health standards, the 2018 meeting also progressed a number of plant health initiatives strategically important to the United States. These initiatives include advancing the development of a new IPPC strategic framework for 2020-2030 to set the top priorities for plant health and trade, launching a pilot of a global electronic certification system to support trade (ePhyto), developing programs aimed at improving the use and implementation of standards around the world, and creating a task force for addressing pest issues associated with the international movement of sea containers.
- New NAPPO standard-setting initiatives include:
 - RSPM 9: Revision of Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 9: Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing.
 - RSPM 35: Revision of Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 35: Guidelines for the Movement of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country.
- For all standard-setting activities and more information, please see the following *Federal Register* [notice](#).