

OCTOBER 30, 2018

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

CPTPP to be Implemented December 30, 2018

- New Zealand, Canada, and Australia have all completed their respective domestic procedures and have ratified the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- Japan, Singapore, and Mexico have also fully ratified the agreement and as of October 30, the minimum number of nations required for the CPTPP to go into effect has been met.
- The CPTPP will enter into force on December 30, 2018.
- The remaining countries to yet ratify the agreement are Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, Peru, and Vietnam.
- The full text, including all the nations' agreed upon tariff schedules, is available [here](#).

Request for Comments on Negotiating Objectives for a U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is requesting public comments on a proposed U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, including U.S. interests and priorities, to develop the U.S. negotiating positions.
- Written comments must be submitted by November 27, 2018. A public hearing will be held on December 10, 2018.
- USTR is interested in barriers to trade in goods and services, product-specific import or export interests or barriers, treatment of specific goods, sanitary and phytosanitary measures that should be addressed in the negotiations, as well as customs and trade facilitation issues. More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#).
- Under the U.S. Trade Promotion Authority, negotiating objectives must be published 30 days before formal negotiations can begin.

USTR Requests Economic Analysis of U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement

- The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has asked the International Trade Commission (ITC) to analyze the potential economic effects of removing tariffs on agricultural goods and granting duty-free treatment for competitive imports from Japan.
- In a letter to the ITC, USTR stressed that the analysis be completed as soon as possible. The [letter](#) lists [sensitive agricultural products](#) to be considered such as beef, dairy, confections, and certain fresh fruits and vegetables. Cherries were not included.
- The economic analysis is required under the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), and under TPA, USTR cannot begin formal negotiations with Japan until January 14, 2019.

Taiwan Amends Measures for Imported Organic Products

- On October 18, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) (in Chinese) a revision to its “Administrative Measures for Imported Food Inspection” with regard to organic agricultural products.
- Taiwan has a release in advance system for goods whose inspection takes over five days, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Goods are given customs clearance in advance of market clearance and then transferred to a warehouse prior to the release of customs inspection results. If there are no finds during the customs inspection, goods can directly enter the market.
- The release in advance system is now an option for organic agricultural products. Organic agricultural products can now be stored in warehouses prior to the release of customs inspection results.
- Additionally, Taiwan is no longer requiring a pre-entry application.

Hong Kong Adopts Amendments to Metallic Contaminants Regulation

- On October 29, Hong Kong [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it has adopted the proposed amendments to the “[Food Adulteration \(Metallic Contamination\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018.](#)”
- Changes include replacing existing food categories with specific contaminant maximum levels (MLs) targeting individual food and food groups to better align with the Codex Alimentarius standards, creating MLs for commonly consumed foods in Hong Kong for which there were no relevant Codex MLs, and updating food descriptions and nomenclatures in the regulations.
- The amended regulation has a one-year grace period and will enter into force November 1, 2019.

India Amends Maximum Limit Levels for Metal Contaminants

- On October 29, India [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the “[Draft Food Safety and Standards \(Contaminants, Toxins, and Residues\) Amendment Regulations, 2018.](#)”
- The draft standard details the maximum limits (ML) of metal contaminants in a variety of food items. The ML for lead in stone fruit is 0.1 parts per million.
- Final date for comments is December 28, 2018.

Japan Requesting Comments on Proposed Revisions to GE Labeling

- On October 10, Japan [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a [summary](#) of amendments to its food labeling standards for genetically modified (GM) goods.
- The term “non-GM” can only be used when GM components are non-detectable.
- Identity preserved (IP) products with unintentional commingling of GM components (up to 5 percent) can no longer use the term “non-GM” and should not use the term “non-segregated.”
- To help facilitated better understanding by consumers, a term other than “non-segregated” will be developed for labeling non-IP products.
- The final date for comments is December 7, 2018.

Trade Ministers Meet to Discuss WTO Reforms

- On October 25, trade ministers from 13 nations met in Ottawa, Canada to discuss World Trade Organization (WTO) reform.
- All the ministers agreed that the WTO needs reform and that the current situation at the WTO is not sustainable. Director-General Roberto Azevêdo welcomed the commitment of ministers to strengthen the trading system and pointed to the imperative for all members of addressing the significant challenges facing global trade.
- The ministers agreed that the WTO’s dispute settlement system, approach to negotiations, and monitoring of members’ transparency were the three areas that required urgent attention. More information on the ministerial is available at the following [Joint Communiqué](#).
- The U.S. and China were not invited to participate, and according to Canadian Trade Minister Jim Carr, there was no consensus between members on how to bring the U.S. and China on board with the WTO reform process. The U.S. has continued to block appointments to the WTO Appellate Body, and without any new appointments, the WTO dispute settlement system will no longer be able to function as the three-judge minimum would not be met.