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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chile Begins Cherry Promotion in Thailand and Vietnam

- The Chilean Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX) [reported](#) (in Spanish) that they have launched their first ever promotional campaigns for Chilean Cherries in Thailand in conjunction with the Chilean Cherry Committee and ProChile.
- The marketing campaign is a part of the Chilean cherry industry's efforts to diversify Chile's cherry world export markets.
- According to ASOEX, the campaign started with a mid-November workshop with the top ten fruit importers and distributors in Bangkok and will continue with consumer-directed promotions in Thailand and Vietnam over the next two months.

European Commission Set 2021 Trigger Volumes for Additional Import Duties for Cherries

- In [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1733](#), the European Commission updated the trigger volumes for 2021 and the first half of 2022 at which they can apply additional import duties for various fruits and vegetables, as regulated by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/892](#). The regulation comes into force on January 1, 2021 and expires on June 30, 2022.
- For fresh cherries, imported under HS Code 0809.29.00, additional duties may be applied if imports exceed 34,052 metric tons between May 16 and August 15, 2021. No dates were specified for the first half of 2022.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Updates

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was signed on Sunday, November 15 after eight years of negotiations (*BCI Monitor 11-17-2020*).
- RCEP includes 15 countries that are a part of ASEAN or have free trade agreements with ASEAN: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- According to a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#), Japan will abolish tariffs on 56% of farm products imported from China, 49% of those from South Korea, and 61% of those from ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand.
- A [comprehensive list of tariff concessions](#) by RCEP signatories is available from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- RCEP will enter into force after at least six ASEAN countries and three non-ASEAN countries ratify the amendment.

Australia Moves to Phase 6 for Khapra Beetle Actions in Shipping Containers

- According to a recent [announcement](#), Australia is accelerating work to develop revised measures for shipping containers to safeguard against khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*).
- Consultations on proposed measures are expected to commence in early 2021.
- Following the revision of measures for shipping containers, Australia will proceed with other scheduled actions to protect against khapra beetle, including the development of revised phytosanitary certification and offshore treatment requirements for imported plant products.

Australia Opens Public Consultation on Pest Risk Analysis for Soft and Hard Scale Insects

- Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment has [published a draft report](#) regarding its pest risk analysis (PRA) for soft and hard scale insects on imported fruits and vegetables.
- The PRA identifies 243 species of soft scale insects and over 331 species of hard scale insects considered quarantine pests for Australia. When measures are required, they include the following options: 1) pre-export visual inspection; 2) a systems approach; 3) treatment; and 4) area freedom.
- Stakeholder comments are due by February 4, 2021. A final report is expected to be published later in 2021.

New Zealand Conducting Consultation on Phase-out of Certain Plastic Products by 2025

- New Zealand has [notified the WTO](#) of a consultation regarding its proposal to phase out single-use plastic items by 2025.
- The [proposal](#) addresses two topics: 1) hard-to-recycle plastics, such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene packaging, and oxo-degradable plastic products; and 2) single-use plastic items including straws, tableware, produce bags, and non-compostable fruit stickers. Final regulations may apply to both the sale and manufacture of such items.
- Submissions are due by December 4, 2020. The proposal is scheduled to be adopted in late 2021 and enter into force by January 2025.

India Publishes Draft Requirements for Overseas Food Manufacturing Facilities

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently published a [draft amendment](#) to the [Food Safety and Standards \(Import\) Regulations, 2017](#).
- The amendment will add a new chapter to the import regulations entitled *Registration and inspection of Foreign Food manufacturing facilities*.
- FSSAI may require inspection or audit of foreign food manufacturing facilities depending on the risk level associated with the food manufactured.
- The regulations will enter into force on either January 1 or July 1, subject to a minimum of 180 days from their final publication in the official Gazette.
- While the draft has not yet been notified to the WTO, according to a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#) comments will be accepted until 60 days after a WTO notification is made. Comments can be sent by e-mail to regulation@fssai.gov.in.

EU Launches Domestic System to Address Trade Barriers and Violations of Sustainable Trade Commitments

- On November 16, the European Commission [launched an online complaints system](#) regarding the EU's Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) commitments.
- The system is designed to facilitate better enforcement of EU TSD policy in trade agreements. It is open to Member States, individual companies, trade associations, civil society organization, and EU citizens. In July, the EU appointed its first [Chief Trade Enforcement Officer](#) to oversee enforcement of trade policy commitments.
- Separately, the EU also maintains the Technical Regulation Information System (TRIS) which allows EU Member States and the European Commission to address potential intra-EU technical barriers to trade resulting from a Member State's proposed national legislation. The current format for TRIS is established through [Directive 2015/1535](#). A recent [USDA GAIN Report](#) provides an overview of TRIS.