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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Drafts Changes to Import Regulations

- On November 20, the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety published a [draft regulation](#) titled *Inspection Omission Procedure* that allows importers in good standing to use an expedited import process.
- In order to qualify, the good being imported must have been declared more than five times per year in the past three years, with no inspection failures in those three years.
- Qualifying goods will receive a Planned Import Confirmation, allowing the importer to omit some documents and skip some sample inspections.
- Comments are due to park3912@korea.kr by December 10.

Taiwan Publishes English Transition of Organic Regulations

- Taiwan has [notified the WTO](#) of an English translation of [regulations](#) on organic agricultural products. The regulation was originally published in Chinese in June 2019.
- The regulations describe the items that are required to be stated in the contract between organic certification bodies and agricultural operators.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Ratifies Three Trade Agreements

- The Australian Senate recently ratified three free trade agreements that have been signed but have not yet entered into force: with [Hong Kong](#), [Peru](#), and [Indonesia](#).
- The agreements with Hong Kong and Peru have already been ratified by these countries and can enter into force shortly, although the Australian government has not committed to a specific timeline.
- Australia and Hong Kong do not levy tariffs on cherries, so the new agreements will not change tariff rates. However, they do increase international phytosanitary and regulatory cooperation.
 - In 2018, Australia exported \$13 million of fresh sweet cherries to Hong Kong, making Hong Kong the second largest export destination for the Australian cherry industry.
- Indonesia has not ratified the Australia–Indonesia FTA, although legislation to do so is currently being debated in the Indonesian parliament. However, the agreement would remove nearly all tariffs on goods traded between the two countries.

EU–Singapore FTA Goes into Effect

- The [EU–Singapore Free Trade Agreement](#), which was ratified earlier this month [*BCI Monitor*: 11-12-19] went into effect on November 21.
- The agreement eliminates all remaining tariffs between the EU and Singapore, with the exception of some fresh produce including cherries.

Argentina Strengthens Agrifood Safety Agency

- On November 20, the Argentinian government [announced a new law](#) (in Spanish) to formalize the powers of the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA) and increase its funding.
- SENASA establishes phytosanitary requirements for domestically produced and imported food and engages in technical negotiations with other countries for free trade and market access agreements.
- The additional funding will help SENASA enforce its [new regulations](#) (in Spanish) for domestic fruit production, which go into effect in 2020.

U.S. Investigation of EU Auto Imports Ends Without New Tariffs

- The U.S. previously established a deadline of November 14 for its Section 232 investigation into auto imports from the EU and Japan.
- After the U.S. and Japan agreed to sign the U.S.–Japan Trade Agreement, the Trump administration dropped the threat of auto tariffs against Japan. However, it left open the possibility of using tariffs against the EU. The EU said it would retaliate with tariffs on U.S. goods if the U.S. imposes auto tariffs.
- However, the Trump administration made no announcement on auto tariffs, allowing the Section 232 investigation to end without taking action. In order to impose tariffs, the administration would now have to open a separate investigation.