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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Amends Phytosanitary Certificate

- On December 11, South Korea [notified](#) the World Trade Organization of minor changes to its [phytosanitary certificate](#) due to the revision of the Plant Protection Act, Enforcement Decree and Enforcement Rule of Plant Protection.
- Previously, the phytosanitary certificate indicated that only English was to be used; however, the new certificate is in Korean and English, and indicates the use of Korean along with English. Additionally, the new certificate requires the country of export to be listed in addition to the place of origin.
- The new phytosanitary certificate came into effect December 4, 2017.

Costa Rica Publishes Draft Resolution and Technical Guide for Fresh Products

- Costa Rica has [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a [draft resolution](#) and a [technical guide](#) on products to be consumed fresh. The notified draft resolution updates the phytosanitary import requirements contained in the technical guide.
- For cherries (*Prunus avium*) from California, it is required that shipments be accompanied by an official phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin. The phytosanitary certificate must indicate that the shipment comes from an area free from *Bactrocera dorsalis*, and that the area has a trapping program for *Bactrocera dorsalis*. Additionally, it must be indicated that the shipment is free from *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*, *Pseudococcus calceolariae*, *Pseudococcus maritimus*, *Diaspidiotus perniciosus*, *Grapholita molesta*, and *Cydia pomonella*.
- The final date for comments is January 22, 2018.

Indonesia Publishes Proposed Regulation for Irradiated Foods

- On December 11, Indonesia [notified](#) the World Trade Organization of a proposed regulation on irradiated foods.
- The regulation conforms to the Codex Alimentarius general standard for irradiated foods and aims to regulate the radiation source, irradiation purposes, re-irradiation, packaging and labelling requirements, and irradiation facility requirements.
- The final date for comments is February 9, 2018.

India Publishes Manual for Imported Foods and Guidelines for Food Recalls

- The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently published a manual for food imports, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [GAIN report](#). The “[Manual for Food Imports](#)” covers food imports for commercial and personal purposes, includes step-by-step procedures for food imports, and includes the relevant FSSAI standards in the annexure.
- Additionally, FSSAI published food recall guidelines that explain the role of FSSAI in the food recall procedure and give the step-by-step procedures a food business operator is required to follow in the case of a food recall. The guidelines can be found at the following USDA FAS [GAIN report](#).

Update on North American Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- Officials from the United States, Canada, and Mexico are in the midst of an intersessional North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) meeting that began on December 9 in Washington, DC.
- The focal point of the weeklong meeting will be technical discussions on financial services and rules of origin. The most controversial topics of agriculture, dispute settlement, and government procurement will be left for the next official round of negotiations set for January 23-28. According to media sources, negotiators are hopeful that tackling the less thorny topics will generate positive momentum for the January talks.
- However, President Trump continues to reiterate his desire to withdraw from the agreement. In a recent interview, Ted McKinney, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, suggested that farmers have a backup plan in the event the U.S. does exit from the agreement.

The European Union and Japan Finalize Trade Deal

- After five years of talks, the European Union (EU) and Japan have finalized negotiations on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, building on the political agreement in principle reached during the EU-Japan Summit in July 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 7-11-17)
- The trade agreement with Japan will remove the vast majority of the €1 billion of duties paid annually by EU companies exporting to Japan, as well as a number of long-standing regulatory barriers. For agricultural products, significant quotas, duty free, or reduced duty have been agreed upon, ensuring meaningful new market access.
- This [announcement](#) means that the EU and Japan will now begin the legal verification of the text. Once that is complete, the agreement will be translated into the 23 official languages of the EU as well as Japanese, and the European Commission will then submit the agreement for the approval of the European Parliament and EU Member States. The EU is aiming for this agreement to enter into force before the end of 2019.

European Union and United Kingdom Reach an Agreement on Divorce Bill

- After eight months of talks, the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (U.K.) have made sufficient progress in negotiating a divorce settlement for the European Commission to recommend that talks move to the second stage in which negotiations will focus on a transition agreement between the EU and U.K. However, leaders from the EU member states must first accept the Commission’s recommendation to move forward.
- In a [joint report](#) published on December 8, the British Government and the European Commission laid out the progress the two sides have made including the legal rights of EU and U.K. citizens, the Ireland-Northern Ireland border, financial settlement, and the U.K.’s future financial obligations to the EU. According to media sources, the U.K. has agreed to pay the EU an amount that British officials said would be at least US \$47 million – much more than the U.K.’s initial offer.
- According to Article 50 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the two parties have two years to reach a deal unless both sides unanimously agree to extend the negotiating period. The UK notified the EU of its departure in March, giving both sides until March 2019 to reach a deal.