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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Australia Approves New Methyl Bromide Treatment Schedules for Cherry Imports**

- Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (DAWE) recently notified USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that it has approved research covering seven new methyl bromide treatment schedules for fresh cherry exports to Australia.
- This development follows approximately five years of efforts from the California and Pacific Northwest cherry industries to secure treatment schedules that permit the fumigation of fruit at higher load factors and cooler temperatures. Research to support this goal was provided by Dr. Spencer Walse of USDA Agricultural Research Service.
- Following review and discussion with industry, APHIS will formally request that DAWE adopt the new schedules to allow their use by industry. No timeframes for this process have yet been provided.
- Concurrently, additional research is also being conducted to seek approval of a further two methyl bromide treatment schedules.
- The industry thanks USDA-APHIS for its efforts in achieving this positive development.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Congress Passes New Covid-19 Stimulus Bill with Support for Specialty Crop Producers**

- Congress has approved a new \$900 billion stimulus bill to mitigate negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The bill includes measures to strengthen the food supply chain, reduce food waste, and help impacted farmers, workers, and processors.
- A [press release](#) published by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry notes that the bill includes an estimated \$225 million for supplemental payments to producers of specialty crops, and further support for fruit and vegetable producers through \$100 million in additional funding for Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG).

**Mexico Announces Proposed Import Procedure Changes for Organic Products**

- Mexico has announced changes to its import procedures for organic products under the *Agreement Establishing Goods whose Import and Export are Subject to Regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*. An unofficial [English translation](#) of the draft measure has been published in addition to the [Spanish-language original](#).

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#### *Mexico Announces Proposed Import Procedure Changes for Organic Products (continued)*

- The changes would designate Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) as the regulatory authority in charge of certain import and export products and address import requirements specific to organic and genetically engineered agricultural products.
- In Annex 1, Part E lists plant products regulated by the General Directorate of Plant Health (DGSV) through visual inspection at the point of entry into Mexico, while Part F lists plant products required to verify compliance with phytosanitary requirements issued by DGSV. Cherries (HS 0809.29) are listed in Part F.
- Stakeholders may [submit comments](#) by December 28, 2020 via Mexico's National Commission for Regulatory Improvement (CONAMER). Mexico has yet to notify the WTO of the changes.

#### **EU Requests Feedback on Plan to Revise Food Contact Material Legislation**

- The European Commission has [launched a consultation period](#) until January 29, 2021, regarding its initiative to update food contact material (FCM) legislation.
- As part of the European Commission's [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) announced in May 2020, FCM legislation is to be reviewed and modernized to support innovation and sustainability. Currently, general EU rules for all FCMs are set in [Regulation \(EC\) No. 1935/2004](#).
- An [Inception Impact Assessment](#) document identifies several problems the initiative aims to address and specifies objectives and policy options regarding the effort. Additional information is available via the European Commission [website](#).

#### **USDA Publishes Translation of China's Draft Standard for Paper Food Contact Materials**

- The USDA has published an [English translation](#) of China's draft [National Food Safety Standard for Paper and Paperboard Food Contact Materials](#) (in Chinese), which will replace GB 4806.8-2016 of the same title.
- The revised standard updates terms and definitions, physical and chemical indicators, and other technical requirements. It also specifies labeling rules for paper and paperboard food contact materials.
- The draft standard was published domestically in October and [notified to the WTO](#) in early November (*BCI Monitor 11-3-20*). Comments are due by January 3, 2021. China has not announced a proposed date of entry into force.

#### **EU Approves UK Conformity Check for Fresh Fruits & Vegetables**

- On December 15, 2020, the EU published in its Official Journal [Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/2102](#), approving conformity checks for fresh fruits and vegetables performed by the UK. Conformity checks to verify compliance with EU marketing standards must be carried out before products can be imported into the EU.
- As of the January 1, 2021, withdrawal of the UK from the EU, goods from the UK will no longer be governed by EU requirements. However, as British legislation regarding conformity checks for marketing standards are equivalent to EU rules, the EU has added the UK to its approved countries under Annex IV of [Implementing Regulation No. 543/2011](#).

#### **Taiwan Extends Temporary Approval of Electronic Import Documents**

- Taiwan has extended the approved use of electronic import documents until June 30, 2021, according to a recent WTO [notification](#). The measure was originally announced in March 2020 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and has been extended multiple times (*BCI Monitor 9-1-20*).
- Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) will accept scanned copies of certificates sent by the exporting country's competent authority or by the representative office in the Separate Customs Territories of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, or by Taiwan's representative office in the exporting country.