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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **EU Plant Import Regulations Go into Force**
- **Updated Canadian Labeling Regulations for Packaged Fruit Coming into Force**
- **USDA Translates Chinese Proposed Labelling Regulations**
- **House of Representatives Approves USMCA**
- **European Union to Increase Market Access for Moldovan Cherries**
- **Australia Ratifies Several Free Trade Agreements**
- **USTR Requests Applications for Trade Committees**

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Plant Import Regulations Go into Force

- New European Union regulations for importing plant products went into effect on December 14, as well as a list of priority pests.
- Cherries from the U.S. remain subject to previously established inspection and phytosanitary certification. [*BCI Monitor*: 08-13-19]
- The cherry pests of concern to the EU are *Tephritidae* (non-European) and *Grapholita packardii* Zeller. These were not changed from previous pest lists. The oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) is listed as not present.

Updated Canadian Labeling Regulations for Packaged Fruit Coming into Force

- According to a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#), updated Canadian regulations for packaged fruit will enter into force on January 15, 2020.
- The regulations require that prepackaged fruit carry a lot code as well as the fruit's common name (e.g., cherries). Fruit packed in transparent bags or wrapping is excepted from these requirements.
- Industry is given a one-year compliance period during which existing packaging will remain acceptable, with full enforcement beginning January 15, 2021.

USDA Translates Chinese Proposed Labelling Regulations

- In early December, the Chinese State Administration for Market Administration (SAMR) notified the WTO of draft regulations for food labelling. [*BCI Monitor*: 12-3-19] A new [USDA GAIN report](#) provides a translation of the proposed regulations.
- The regulations include the general requirements and principles for food labelling (Chapter 11), such as required size, fonts, colors, language, and manufacturer information.
- Chapter III contains more detailed requirements for food labelling and ingredient lists. Among other requirements, it includes the format for manufacturer information (Article 20) and date marking (Article 21).

House of Representatives Approves USMCA

- On December 19, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the revised USMCA deal [*BCI Monitor*: 12-10-19]. The Senate has not announced when it will vote on the USMCA.
- All three participating countries' legislatures must ratify the agreement for it to enter into force. Mexico has already ratified the agreement, while Canada is expected to vote in January.

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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Union to Increase Market Access for Moldovan Cherries

- The European Union [announced](#) it will create a duty-free 1,500 metric ton (MT) quota for fresh cherries from Moldova.
- Currently, the most-favored nation (MFN) tariff rate of 12% is levied on Moldovan cherries. The MFN rate is also applied to U.S. cherries.
- In 2018, Moldova exported \$6.5 million in fresh cherries, primarily to Russia. Moldova does not currently export cherries to the EU.

Australia Ratifies Several Free Trade Agreements

- The Australian Senate [ratified](#) free trade agreements (FTAs) with Hong Kong and Peru, ensuring that these two FTAs will enter into force on January 17 and February 11, 2020, respectively.
- The Australia-Hong Kong FTA primarily increases regulatory cooperation, as trade between Australia and Hong Kong is already almost entirely duty-free.
- Australia has also ratified the Australia-Indonesia FTA, which was signed in 2018. This agreement would eliminate most remaining tariffs between the two countries upon entry into force.
- The Indonesian government has not yet secured the votes to ratify the agreement.

USTR Requests Applications for Trade Committees

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has [released](#) a call for applications for new members to serve on seven agricultural trade advisory committees.
- Applications are due to [USDA](#) by January 31, 2020.