

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes English Translation of EAEU Draft Amendments to Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements

- A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) includes an unofficial English translation of the EAEU's Phytosanitary Quarantine Requirements with amendments first [notified to the WTO](#) on January 29, 2021 (*BCI Monitor 2-2-21*).
- The seedlings, rootstocks, and cuttings of sweet cherries (*Prunus avium*, from 0602 except 0602.90.1000) should be from zones free of *Cherry rasp leaf chera virus*.
- The EAEU consists of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.
- The amendments on phytosanitary quarantine requirements will enter into force 30 days after official publication. Comments are due by March 30, 2021. For inclusion in the U.S. official position, comments are due to the USDA by March 15, 2021 at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA and FDA Affirm Lack of Scientific Evidence for COVID-19 Transmission Through Food and Food Packaging

- On February 18, the USDA and FDA released a [statement](#) reaffirming that there is no credible evidence that food or food packaging are a likely source of viral transmission of COVID-19.
- They reiterated that they continue to be confident in the safety of foods available to U.S. consumers and exported worldwide.

USDA AMS Updates USDA Harmonized GAP and GAP Plus+ Audit Checklists

- The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) [announced](#) updates to the [USDA Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices \(GAP\) and Gap Plus+ audit checklists](#). The updates enter into force on May 1, 2021.
- AMS will host a [free webinar](#) on March 8, 2021 at 1 p.m. ET to discuss the revisions.

Canada Delays Mandatory Compliance with 2016 Nutrition Labeling Regulations

- Due to COVID-19, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [announced](#) it will provide enforcement flexibility for the [2016 Nutrition Labeling Regulatory Amendments](#), set to enter into force on December 14, 2021.

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Canada Delays Mandatory Compliance with 2016 Nutrition Labeling Regulations (continued)

- Unlike the U.S. fixed compliance date policy for food labeling, which bases transition periods of one to three years on the publication date of regulations, Canada will tailor transition periods for each regulation based on consultation with stakeholders.
- The policy aims to improve coordination and reduce the economic burden associated with multiple, sequential food label changes.
- The consultation will be open until April 3, 2021.

South Korea Extends Compliance Deadline for Food Labeling Provision

- South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [announced](#) (in Korean) it will delay implementation of food labeling requirements regarding text ratio from March 14, 2021 to the end of 2021.
- Based on an informal translation, foods manufactured or imported with existing packaging materials will be permitted entry until the end of 2021 and can then be sold until their expiration date.

South Korea Publishes Proposed Amendments Regarding On-Site Inspection of Foreign Facilities and Foreign Establishments

- South Korea [notified the WTO](#) it published a proposed amendment titled: [Procedures and Requirements for On-Site Inspection of Foreign Facilities and Foreign Establishments \(MFDS Notice No. 2021-062\)](#) (in Korean).
- According to the provided description of content, the proposal seeks to revise and streamline sanitation standards and checklists for foreign food facilities and foreign establishments by merging and removing duplicate items.
- Comments are due March 19, 2021. Proposed dates for adoption, publication, and entry into force have not been announced.