

MARCH 23, 2021

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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Korea Amends Quarantine Pest List**

- On March 15, the Republic of Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA) [notified](#) the WTO that it was modifying its quarantine pest list.
- APQA [added](#) 49 new species to the list, while [removing](#) 14 species as of March 8.
- Comments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are due by May 16, 2021, and may be sent to [wtoagri@korea.kr](mailto:wtoagri@korea.kr).

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Katherine Tai Confirmed as U.S. Trade Representative**

- On March 17, Katherine Tai was unanimously confirmed 98-0 as U.S. Trade Representative by the Senate and [sworn in](#) the following day.
- Tai's confirmation hearing was held on February 25. She previously served at USTR from 2007-2014, most recently as Chief Counsel for China Trade Enforcement.

**European Union Strengthens Food Allergen Safety Requirements**

- On March 24, an [amendment](#) to European Union Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 regarding hygiene of foodstuffs will come into force, strengthening requirements regarding allergens and food safety throughout the value chain.
- The amendment mandates that equipment used for harvesting, transport, or storage of substances causing allergies or intolerances shall not be used with foodstuffs not containing the substance without cleaning or observing for visible debris.

**India Designates 22 New Food Entry Port Jurisdictions**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) [announced](#) that as of March 10, FSSAI officers, rather than customs officials, will have authority at 22 additional ports of entry.
- In October 2019, FSSAI announced that 150 food entry points would be staffed by FSSAI to prevent the importation of unsafe food products. The order originally set an implementation date of April 1, 2020. FSSAI has designated and stationed its own officers at 42 checkpoints to date.

**Australia Implements New Procedures for Khapra Beetle Container Measures**

- On March 22, 2021, Australia [notified](#) the WTO of new measures for treating sea containers for khapra beetle following its August 2020 notification informing the WTO of its intent to pursue emergency measures.

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*Australia Implements New Procedures for Khapra Beetle Container Measures (continued)*

- Beginning April 12, 2021, [high risk plant products](#) from [target risk countries](#) will require off-shore treatment. Beginning in late 2021, other goods packed in sea containers from high-risk countries shipped to grain growing [regions](#) of Australia and subject to Phase 3 or Phase 4 phytosanitary certification will require methyl bromide fumigation or heat treatment.
- Cherries are not specified in the list of high-risk plant products and the U.S. is not among the target risk countries.