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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Taiwan Changes Import Fees**

- Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) that as of March 17 it has increased its [quarantine fees](#) for plant and animal products. These changes were originally notified to the WTO as a draft measure in August.
- The regulation includes standard quarantine fees (page 1 in the notified document), operation fees (page 3), handling fees (page 5) and fumigation and sterilization fees for plant product imports (page 9).

**Vietnam Notifies WTO of Updated Pest List**

- Vietnam [notified the WTO](#) of a [draft national technical regulation](#) on phytosanitary requirements for imported plant products, primarily an updated list of prohibited pests.
- This regulation officially establishes zero tolerance for the pests listed, according to an accompanying [USDA GAIN report](#). These include varieties of fruit fly, including multiple species of *Anastrepha* and *Bactrocera*, as well as *Drosophila suzukii*.
- The regulation is set to be adopted on May 28. Comments are due to Vietnam's SPS notification point at [spsvietnam@mard.gov.vn](mailto:spsvietnam@mard.gov.vn) by May 17.

**USTR Cancels Seasonal Produce Hearings and Extends Comment Deadline**

- In response to the coronavirus outbreak, USTR has [canceled hearings](#) in Florida and Georgia on trade-distorting policies affecting seasonal produce.
- The hearings were intended primarily to address a dispute between the U.S. and Mexico over tomato imports, but USTR is accepting comments on all seasonal produce, not just tomatoes. [*BCI Monitor*: 3-17-20]
- USTR has waived the comment deadline of March 26 and will continue to accept comments until further notice.

**Taiwan Notifies WTO of Food Contact Materials Subject to Inspection**

- On March 24, Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) of [four commodity classification items](#) that will be subject to import controls and food/food-related materials inspections if they are used in packaging, utensils, food additives, or any other food contact item.
- The relevant items are identified by their 11-digit Taiwan CCC code, in which the first six digits are identical to the item's six-digit 2012 HS Code. The items are:
  - CCC code 3805.10.00.00-9, Gum, wood, or sulphate turpentine oils
  - CCC code 3823.19.90.00-9, other industrial monocarboxylic fatty acids
  - CCC code 3917.10.00.00-4, Artificial guts (sausage casings) of hardened protein or of cellulosic materials
  - CCC code 3917.32.00.90-9, Other tubes, pipes and hoses, not reinforced or otherwise combined with other materials, without fittings, of plastics
- Comments are due to Taiwan's National Notification Authority at [hades@fda.gov.tw](mailto:hades@fda.gov.tw) by May 23.

### Taiwan Notifies WTO of Food Naming Regulation

- On March 20, Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) of a [proposed regulation](#) that would ban the word "health" on any food label if the food is not officially recognized as a health food by the Taiwanese government.
- No date of adoption has been proposed, but if approved this regulation would go into effect at the beginning of 2022.
- Comments are due to the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration at [linlee7@fda.gov.tw](mailto:linlee7@fda.gov.tw) by May 20.

### Queensland Introduces Mandatory Quarantine for Arriving Ships

- In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the state of Queensland, Australia, has introduced a mandatory two-week quarantine for ships coming from all countries.
- According to an [announcement](#) from Maritime Safety Queensland, ships will not be allowed to dock until two weeks after the ship or any crew members have last been in any country other than Australia.
- Other Australian ports are reportedly considering similar measures. However, the decision has been criticized by exporters, shippers, and food industry groups, who warn that quarantines will hurt Australia's supply chains and limit food imports.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### Mexican Agricultural Industry Criticizes USTR Proposal

- The Mexican agricultural industry, represented by the National Agriculture Council of Mexico (CNA), [criticized](#) (in Spanish) a U.S. government proposal to change tariff treatment for Mexican seasonal produce.
- President of CNA Bosco de la Vega said that if the U.S. imposes tariffs on Mexican tomatoes, which is a key demand of the U.S. tomato industry, Mexico should impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. fresh produce.
- According to media reports, the Mexican government is weighing potential responses, including retaliatory tariffs, if the U.S. changes its seasonal tariff treatment.

### USTR Requests Comments on FTA Negotiations with Kenya

- On March 17, U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer officially notified Congress that the Trump administration will try to negotiate a free trade agreement with Kenya.
- The office of the USTR is now [requesting comments](#) on a potential free trade agreement with Kenya and the negotiating objectives of the U.S. A free trade agreement would address both tariff and non-tariff barriers, according to the notification.
- Comments are due to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) using docket number USTR-2020-0011 by April 15, and a hearing on trade negotiations is scheduled for April 28 in Washington D.C.
- Due to the ongoing coronavirus epidemic, talks between the U.S. and Kenya are not expected to start before June.