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A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Provides Translation of Korean Draft Amendments on the Inspection of Imported Foods

- The USDA has provided BCI with an in-house, unofficial [translation and analysis](#) of a [draft legislative proposal](#) (in Korean) amending several Korean food import related regulations to improve the pre-import process and sampling (*BCI Monitor* 5-11-2021).
- The proposal includes a new MRL testing list for new-to-market products and will allow visual, lab, and random sampled inspections to be performed before bulk agricultural products enter bonded areas.
- While most amendments will enter into force at notification, changes in Article 8 regarding inspection items that failed to comply and Annexes 3 and 2 regarding MRL testing will enter into force on October 1, 2021.
- According to the provided translation, the comment deadline has been extended to July 17, 2021 to jwj1223@korea.kr.

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

UK Announces Application Process for Duty Suspensions

- On May 20, the United Kingdom [announced](#) details of the new application process for UK duty suspensions, which will open from June 1 to July 31.
- The program allows for the suspension of UK Most-Favored Nation (MFN) tariffs for a specific import. Previous suspensions from the EU that were carried over into 2021 must now re-apply.
- Applicants should be based in the UK or a UK territory overseas and must come from individual applicants. Once awarded, any UK importer will be able to use the suspension.
- Each application should only relate to one commodity. The relevant product should not be produced in the UK in large quantities.
- The UK Government will announce successful duty suspensions no earlier than late 2021.
- Duty suspensions are expected to come into effect no earlier than early 2022 and be in force until summer 2024.
- Further details on the program are available on the [suspension application form](#).

UK Proposes Change to Retaliatory Section 232 Steel & Aluminum Tariffs

- The UK Government recently announced a [public consultation](#) on [U.S. products](#) for which UK tariffs may be revised in response to ongoing U.S. imposition of Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs.
- This consultation was [previewed in December](#), when the UK announced that after exiting the European Union it would continue to apply retaliatory tariffs stemming from the Section 232 dispute with the U.S., but would be recalibrating these tariffs to the UK economy at a later date (*BCI Monitor 12-15-20*).
- No products of interest to CCB are included on the list of products subject to potentially increased tariffs.
- The rebalanced tariffs would replace the [current Annex I retaliatory tariffs, established by the EU](#), that went into effect in June 2018.
- While the EU has suspended the imposition of the next tranche of retaliatory tariffs approved under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the UK is entitled to impose its own additional tariffs in June 2021.
- The [consultation](#) will close on July 5, 2021 at 11:45 pm GMT.

FSANZ Extends Approval of Irradiation Treatment to All Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- On May 12, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) [announced the approval](#) of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables.
- The approved draft variation will amend [FSANZ Code Section 1.5.3—3](#) to extend approval of irradiation treatment from 26 approved fruits and vegetables to all fresh fruits and vegetables. Commodities not in scope include dried pulses and legumes and nuts and seeds.
- In October 2020, FSANZ published a draft version of the new regulation and sought comments. (*BCI Monitor 11-3-20*)
- Cherries were among the 26 [fruits and vegetables already eligible for radiation treatment](#) in Australia.

FSANZ Proposes Additional Method of Total Dietary Fiber Analysis

- On May 21, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) [announced a draft food regulation](#) to approve an additional voluntary method of total dietary fiber analysis.
- The draft regulation would add AOAC Method 2017.16 - Rapid Integrated Total Dietary Fiber Method (RITDF) to Schedule 11 of the FSANZ Food Standards Code. This method is permitted by Codex and in countries including Canada, the U.S., and the EU.
- According to the FSANZ [Supporting Document](#) and the [initial application](#) filed by the Australian Grains & Legumes Nutrition Council, the new method is more comprehensive, while current methods accepted by the FSANZ Food Standards Code may overestimate total dietary fiber.
- Comments can be submitted to FSANZ via its online [documents for public comment page](#) or directly to submissions@foodstandards.gov.au.