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## A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

### SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

#### Vietnam National Technical Regulation on Quarantine Pests Enters into Force

- In December 2020, Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has published a National Technical Regulation (NTR) establishing a zero-tolerance policy for regulated quarantine pests in imported plant products (*BCI Monitor 1-12-21*).
- The Circular has entered into force as of June 25, 2021.
- An unofficial English translation of the Circular is available via a December 2020 [USDA GAIN report](#).

#### Australia Extends Temporary Acceptance of Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates

- On June 23, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [announced](#) the extension of its temporary acceptance of electronic phytosanitary certificates for fresh produce, cut flowers, plants, and other plant-based commodities until June 30, 2022.
- Australia initially enacted this temporary change in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (*BCI Monitor 4-7-20, 6-30-20, 10-3-20*).
- When an importer is unable to provide an original paper phytosanitary certificate from the exporter country's national plant protection organization (NPPO), inspection officers will accept an electronic copy. Officers may sometimes request verification directly from the exporting NPPO.
- The arrangement applies when exporting country NPPOs already do not use electronic means of transferring phytosanitary certificates and the NPPO has asked to use alternatives to paper.

#### Mexico Ratifies Compliance Date Extension for Organic Products Law

- On June 16, Mexico [gazetted](#) the compliance deadline extension for the Organic Products Law (LPO). The proposed extension was announced in May. (*BCI Monitor 5-18-21*).
- LPO compliance will be mandatory on January 1, 2022. USDA suggests that U.S. organic exporters to Mexico continue working with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) to become certified to the LPO standards well in advance of the compliance date.
- The LPO requires that U.S. organic exports be certified by a National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) accredited certifying body, of which only 12 are also accredited by the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP).
- Prior to extension, the LPO was to enter into force on June 26, 2021 (*BCI Monitor 4-20-21, 5-4-21*). More information on the extension, including a translation, is available from a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#).

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### CDFA Changes LABM Quarantine Boundary

- On June 18, the [California Department of Agriculture](#) (CDFA) expanded the quarantine area for the light brown apple moth (LBAM).
- The San Diego County Regulated Area Boundary is expanded in the San Diego County – San Diego Area, Grids [530](#) and [531](#), effective immediately.

### Australia Launches National Plastics Plan

- In May, the Australia Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [published](#) the [National Plastics Plan 2021](#).
- Under the plan, Australia aims to meet the following National Packaging Targets by 2025:
  - 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable
  - 79% of plastic packaging goes on to be recycled or composted
  - 50% average recycled content within packaging (20% for plastic packaging)
  - Phase out of “problematic and unnecessary” single-use plastic packaging

### European Private Sector Launches Front-of-Pack Environmental Score

- European non-profit, Foundation Earth, will [pilot](#) front-of-pack, traffic-light style environmental scores this fall in the UK, with Europe-wide roll out planned in 2022. Scores will reflect carbon emissions, biodiversity, water usage, and water pollution based on a full lifecycle product analysis.
- Foundation Earth was [launched](#) by a group of major European food companies and supermarkets on June 26.