

JULY 28, 2020

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Clarifies Certificate of Analysis Option for Fresh Produce Exports to Thailand

- The USDA recently published a [GAIN report](#) clarifying the optional use of a Certificate of Analysis (COA) for fresh product exports to Thailand under its pesticide residue testing monitoring procedures entering into effect August 1, 2020. Details regarding Thailand's pesticide monitoring procedures are available via previous [USDA GAIN reporting](#) (*BCI Monitor 7-21-20*).
- According to the new report, exporters of "high risk" produce that wish to avoid increased random testing can submit a COA. Cherries are currently classified as "high risk."

Chile and China Trade Groups Sign MOU on Export and Import of Fresh Fruits

- The Association of Fruit Exporters of Chile AG (ASOEX) and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for the Import & Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce, and Animal By-Products (CFNA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the export and import of fresh fruit.
- According to ASOEX's [announcement](#) (in Spanish), the MOU includes support of trade visits for representatives of each association; exchange of technology and technical expertise, statistical data, regulatory legislation, and information on customs procedures; and support for advertising and promotional activities.
- Chile exported nearly 450,000 metric tons (MT) of fresh fruit to China during its 2018-19 season, including approximately 158,000 MT of cherries.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Amends Organic Production Regulations to Accelerate Harmonization Talks

- Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture recently [announced](#) (in Spanish) changes to the country's organic production guidelines, intended to expedite ongoing organic equivalency negotiations with other countries by improving alignment with the organic production regulations of key trading partners.
- The [proposed modifications](#) (in Spanish) to the 2013 guidelines were published in the official gazette on June 8, 2020, and will come into effect on November 22, 2020. The guideline modifications address labeling, inspection and sampling, and permitted substances, among other topics.
- Mexico is involved in organic harmonization talks with the United States, Canada, and the European Union. With organic equivalency agreements, Mexican organic products will be able to enter foreign markets without the need to secure additional certifications.

USDA Announces New Farmers to Families Food Box Program Purchases

- The USDA recently [announced](#) a third round of purchases under the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\) Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#) announced in April. The third round, which includes fresh produce, will spend the remainder of the \$3 billion allocated for the program.
- USDA has solicited feedback from agricultural producers whose commodities were not already included in CFAP in order to expand the program. Details regarding eligibility for specialty crops are available via a dedicated USDA [website](#). Cherries are not currently included in the CFAP.

Paraguay Notifies WTO of Proposed MERCOSUR Plastic Food Packaging Regulations

- Paraguay notified the WTO of two draft MERCOSUR Resolutions impacting plastic food packaging contact materials. The WTO notifications are linked [here](#) and [here](#) (in Spanish).
- [MERCOSUR Resolution 02/20](#) (in Spanish) replaces two annexes of GMC Resolution No. 56/92, including specifying total migration limits to be met by all plastic packaging and equipment in contact with foods.
- [MERCOSUR Resolution 03/20](#) (in Spanish) updates GMC Resolution No. 02/12, which includes a positive list of monomers, other starting substances, and polymers authorized for plastic food packaging in contact with foods.
- No deadline for comments or proposed date of implementation is provided in the notification.