

JULY 14, 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Customs Clearance Delays Occurring at Chinese Ports**
- **Korean Legislation Proposes Changing “Sell-By Date” Labels to “Use-By Date” Labels**
- **Denmark Bans PFAs in Paper and Cardboard Packaging**
- **Kenya and the U.S. Begin Free Trade Negotiations**
- **UK Published Guide to Border Operations for Trade with EU**

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Customs Clearance Delays Occurring at Chinese Ports

- According to recent media reports, large inbound shipment volumes combined with increased testing has extended customs clearance times at some Chinese ports, with a typical three-day process now taking as long as ten days.
- On July 14, China [notified the WTO](#) of positive coronavirus samples found on frozen shrimp containers exported to China. The consignment is believed to have originated in Ecuador.
- An informal translation of a China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) [announcement](#) (in Chinese), published on July 13, notes China’s General Administration of Customs (GACC) is taking measures to address contamination risks on imported food, including suspending certain shipments.
- A separate CFDA [press release](#) (in Chinese), also published on July 13, notes Chinese Director of Foreign Trade, Li Xingqian, stating that China’s testing procedures are in full compliance with international standards.
- Although China is taking these actions, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be transferred on food.

Korean Legislation Proposes Changing “Sell-By Date” Labels to “Use-By Date” Labels

- Korea [notified](#) the WTO of [pending legislation](#) (in Korean) to change the “sell-by date” on food labels to a “use-by date.”
- The deadline for comments is September 11, 2020. The dates of adoption and entry into force have yet to be determined.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Denmark Bans PFAs in Paper and Cardboard Packaging

- Effective July 1, 2020, Denmark has banned the use of per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAs) in the manufacture of paper and cardboard food contact materials.
- [Order No. 681](#) (in Danish) disallows the use of PFAs unless the packaging materials are separated from the food by a barrier which prevents migration of substances into food.
- Denmark is currently the only EU member state to enact this kind of ban on PFAs in food contact materials, but other member states and the EU as a whole are studying the risks associated with exposure to PFAs and may consider similar rules at a later date.

Kenya and the U.S. Begin Free Trade Negotiations

- Kenya and the United States [formally launched](#) the first round of negotiations towards a free trade agreement on July 8, 2020 with focus on six key sectors, including agriculture.
- The negotiations represent a continuation of efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship, which in 2018 was jointly elevated to a strategic partnership.
- Both countries acknowledge the new agreement can serve as a model for other African countries, including those in the East African Community (EAC) of Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya is also a part of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which entered into force in 2019 and is in the process of implementation.

UK Publishes Guide to Border Operations for Trade with EU

- On July 13, the United Kingdom [published a guide](#) to border operations for trade with the European Union applicable upon the end of its transition period on December 31, 2020.
- Several systems have been developed to facilitate electronic filing and approval of transactions. The plan also includes border infrastructure spending plans.
- Certain arrangements have been made to transition to the new systems in three stages up until July 1, 2021. From April 2021, all products of animal origin and regulated plant products will require pre-notification and relevant health documentation.