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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Australia and New Zealand Consider Generic Permission for Irradiated Produce**
- **ASEAN Customs Transit System Launched**
- **India Adds Food Import Amendment Regulation to Official Gazette**
- **China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Composite FCM**
- **China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Printing Ink FCM**
- **China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Paper and Paperboard FCM**
- **China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Detergents**
- **China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Bamboo and Wood FCM**
- **China Proposes Additions to FCM Positive List**

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia and New Zealand Consider Generic Permission for Irradiated Produce

- [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#) notified the WTO that the Food Standards of Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) is [considering](#) an amendment to Standard 1.5.3. *Irradiation of Food of the FSANZ Code*, replacing a positive list of 26 fruits and vegetables that are allowed to be irradiated for a generic approval of irradiated produce.
- If approved, all fresh fruits and vegetables will be permitted to use irradiation as a phytosanitary measure. Cherries are among the [26 fruits and vegetables](#) that are currently allowed to be irradiated and would see no changes.
- The current minimum and maximum absorbed doses of 150 Gy and 1 kGy and labeling requirements for irradiated food will remain unchanged.
- The proposed implementation date is June 1, 2021.
- While the WTO notification says comments are due by January 10, 2021, the official [call for submission](#) states a deadline of December 11, 2020 at 6 pm Canberra time.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

ASEAN Customs Transit System Launched

- [The ASEAN Customs Transit System \(ACTS\)](#) officially [launched](#) on November 2, 2020 and will be implemented across Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Other countries in ASEAN, namely Myanmar, Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines are expected to join ACTS at a later date.
- The new program's [objectives](#) are to improve efficiency of moving goods along land transportation routes among the participating countries, reduce transaction costs and movement time, and improve the prevention and detection of smuggling and fraud.
- ACTS removes the need for multiple customs declarations at borders, replacing it with one electronic declaration for Intra-ASEAN trade in participating countries.
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) products were not allowed to be transported during the pilot phase. Each participating country will maintain a list of prohibited, excluded, or restricted goods.

India Adds Food Import Amendment Regulation to Official Gazette

- India has published the [Food Safety and Standards \(Import\) Amendment Regulations, 2020](#) in its Official Gazette.
- The new regulations amend the 2017 version of the standards and were published as a draft for comments in February 2019.

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India Adds Food Import Amendment to Official Gazette (continued)

- The draft amendment regulations clarify that in the case of imported pre-packaged retail food articles, an Authorized Officer, after successful completion of visual inspection and sampling, may issue a provisional no objection certificate to move the food consignment to a well-equipped storage facility.
- The regulation includes Form 13A, a required declaration by the importer for issuance of a provisional no objection certificate.
- Importers may not sell the pre-packaged food article until after the issuance of the no objection certificate by the Authorized Officer.
- Compliance is required as of July 1, 2021.

China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Composite Food Contact Materials

- A draft standard for [*Composite Materials and Products for Food Contact*](#) (in Chinese) is among [five draft National Food Safety Standards](#) (GB standards) on food contact materials released by China.
 - The new standard replaces GB 9683-88 *Hygienic Standard for Composite Food Packaging Bags*. Based on informal translation, changes that may be of interest include: Expanded scope applies regulation to all food contact materials consisting of two or more layers constructed through adhesion, hot melting or other methods.
 - Additional migration test requirements, basic requirements for raw materials additives, and increased limit of microorganisms.
- [Comments](#) are due November 30, 2020. Please note that the link for comments does not function reliably.

China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Printing Ink Food Contact Materials

- A draft standard for [*Inks for Food Contact Materials and Products*](#) (in Chinese) is among [five draft National Food Safety Standards](#) (GB standards) on food contact materials released by China.
- The new standard applies to printing inks either in direct contact with food or that may transfer to food. Based on informal translations, the standard includes:
 - Establishing residue limits on heavy metals in printing inks
 - Specification on overall migration limits
 - Requirements for the base materials and additive in ink. For inks in direct contact with food, additives must be permitted food additives under GB 2760. Inks in indirect contact with food must be food-contact additives permitted under GB 9685.
- [Comments](#) are due November 30, 2020. Please note that the link for comments does not function reliably.

China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Paper and Paperboard Food Contact Materials

- A draft standard for [*Food Contact Paper and Paperboard Materials and Products*](#) (in Chinese) is among [five draft National Food Safety Standards](#) (GB standards) on food contact materials released by China.
- The new standard replaces GB 4806.8-2016 *National Food Safety Standard Food Contact Paper and Paperboard Materials and Products*. Based on informal translation, listed changes include:
 - Removal of limits on potassium permanganate consumption and heavy metals and addition of residue limits on 1,3-dichloro-2-propanol (CAS 96-23-1) and 3-chloro-1,2-propanediol (CAS 96-24-2).
 - Modification in scope, sensory soaking liquid requirements, and definitions.
- [Comments](#) are due November 30, 2020. Please note that the link for comments does not function reliably.

China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Detergents

- A draft standard for [National Food Safety Standard Detergent](#) (in Chinese) is among [five draft National Food Safety Standards](#) (GB standards) on food contact materials released by China.
- The new standard replaces Gb 14930.1-2015 *National Food Safety Standard Detergent*. The standards apply to two classes of detergents: Class A used for directly washing food and Class B used to wash food-contact utensils, tools, equipment, food packaging, etc. Based on informal translation, listed changes include:
 - A new positive list of raw materials permitted for Class A detergents (Appendix A).
 - Addition of limits on 1,4-dioxane.
 - Modification of product identification requirements and clarification of methods for microbial sampling.
- [Comments](#) are due November 30, 2020. Please note that the link for comments does not function reliably.

China Releases Draft National Food Safety Standard for Bamboo and Wood Food Contact Materials

- A draft standard for [Bamboo and Wood Materials and Products for Food Contact](#) (in Chinese) is among [five draft National Food Safety Standards](#) (GB standards) on food contact materials released by China.
- The new standard applies to food contact materials using bamboo, wood, or cork as raw materials. Based on informal translations, the standard establishes:
 - Microorganism limits for materials in direct contact with food and directly used without disinfection or washing.
 - Migration, chemical, and physical indicators, and sensory requirements.
- [Comments](#) are due November 30, 2020. Please note that the link for comments does not function reliably.

China Proposes Additions to FCM Positive List

- China's National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment has [proposed](#) (in Chinese) adding three substances to its positive list approved for use in food contact materials and to expand the scope of approved use for three additives already included on the list.
- The three new substances and their respective announcements (in Chinese) are:
 - [Calcium hydroxide](#) as an additive for use in plastic polypropylene
 - [C11-15-iso alkanes](#) for use as an additive in printing inks
 - [2-propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, polymer with N-\(butoxymethyl\)-2-propenamide, ethyl benzene and ethyl 2-propenoate](#), a new resin for use in coatings and films
- The [expanded scope of use](#) (in Chinese) for three substances are:
 - Extending the use of pigment blue 15 to plastic *polycyclohexylenedimethylene terephthalate* (PCT)
 - Unlimited maximum use level of glass fiber in *polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene* plastics
 - Extending the use of talc to include adhesives
- Comments are due by November 16, 2020.