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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USDA Publishes Translation of China's Revised Overseas Facilities Registration Regulation**

- The USDA recently published a [GAIN report](#) on China's Revised Overseas Facilities Registration Regulations, [notified to the WTO](#) on November 16, 2020 (*BCI Monitor 11-17-20*).
- The report includes a translation of the regulations and differences between the current draft and the first draft, released in November 2019.
- The measures will replace the former General Administration of Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) Decree 145, which was implemented on May 1, 2012 and amended by Order No. 243 General Administration of Customs on November 23, 2018.
- Comments on the measure are due by January 15, 2021 to China's TBT Notification and Enquiry Center at [tbt@customs.gov.cn](mailto:tbt@customs.gov.cn).

**New Zealand Launches Pest Database**

- New Zealand [launched](#) the [Official New Zealand Pest Register \(ONZPR\)](#), a database of official regulatory statuses for over 24,000 pests and diseases.
- The new online tool replaces the Biosecurity Organism Register for Imported Commodities, the Unwanted Organisms Register, and Country Freedom Status lists.

**Russia Extends Food Import Ban Through 2021**

- On November 21, 2020, Russian President Putin signed [Decree No. 730](#) (in Russian) extending Russia's ban on the import of agricultural products from countries that maintain economic sanctions against Russia, including the United States, through December 31, 2021.
- No changes were made to the list of countries or products impacted.
- The import ban was first put in place in March 2014 and was last extended in June 2019. A 2019 [USDA GAIN report](#) includes a list of affected products, an unofficial translation of the decree, and links to previous reporting on the ban.

**Vietnam Considering Implementing COVID-19 Testing for Imported Foods**

- According to a [notice](#) published by the Australian government, Vietnam's Ministry of Health (MoH) has internally released a directive instructing Vietnamese agencies to implement control measures for cold chain foods imported from countries affected by COVID-19.
- The directive reportedly includes carrying out sample testing on packaging.
- BCI has confirmed that the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is aware of the issue and is seeking clarification.

*(Continues on next page)*

*Vietnam Considering Implementing COVID-10 Testing for Imported Foods (continued)*

- The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) have stated, “[there is] no evidence to date of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses being transmitted via food or food packaging. The U.S. has raised a [Specific Trade Concern](#) in the WTO over similar COVID-19 packaging testing of imported foods by China, reiterating the trade restrictions are unjustified.
- BCI will continue to monitor the unfolding situation in Vietnam.