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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chilean Cherry Sales in China Impacted by Rumors of COVID on Packaging

- At the end of January, social media reports of COVID-19 detection on a box of cherries led to large reductions in sales of Chilean cherries in China (*BCI Monitor* 1-26-21).
- The Association of Fruit Exporters of Chile, AG (ASOEX) has since released updates regarding the situation for Chilean cherries in China on [January 27th](#) and [January 28th](#) (in Spanish), reporting on ASOEX engagement with the Chinese media and on [televised assurances](#) by the Chief Epidemiologist of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention that consumers will not contract COVID-19 from eating imported fruit saying that, “the virus cannot survive in packaging or fruit for that long.”
- ASOEX reported as of January 28th, price and turnover of cherries in wholesale markets had improved but had not recovered to levels prior to the COVID-19 detection issue.

Russia Notified WTO of EAEU Draft Amendments to Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements

- Russia [notified the WTO](#) of a Eurasian Economic Commission Council [Draft Decision on Amendments to the Common Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements](#) (in Russian). Additional documents and a comparative table of changes (in Russian) are available from the [EAEU legal portal](#).
- The EAEU consists of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.
- An addition to the requirements of note to CCB is that sweet cherries (*Prunus avium*, from 0602 except 0602.90.1000) must come from zones free of *Cherry rasp leaf chera virus*.
- The amendments on phytosanitary quarantine requirements will enter into force 30 days after official publication. Comments are due by March 30, 2021.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Notifies Annual Changes to Quarantine Pest Lists

- Japan [notified the WTO](#) of its 2021 proposed revisions to the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act and quarantine pest lists on February 1, 2021. A [summary](#) is provided of the proposed revisions.
- Japan’s proposed revisions do not contain any new quarantine pests of direct relevance to California cherries.
- Comments are due by April 2, 2021. Proposed revisions will enter into force immediately after the completion of domestic legal procedures, approximately three months from the notification.

Korea Publishes 2021 Imported Food Distribution Management Plan

- South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) recently [announced](#) (in Korean) the implementation of its 2021 Food Distribution Management Plan.
- MFDS establishes and implements an annual plan to ensure the safety and quality of imported food under the [Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control](#) (in Korean).
- The main elements of the plan are increased inspection depending on company history, expanded sampling of certain imported foods based on risk, and improved reporting methods to prevent distribution of non-reported consignments.