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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chile Establishes Risk Classification of Plant Products

- On March 16, Chile's Servicio Agrícola u Ganadero (SEG) [notified](#) the WTO of a [Resolution No. 1284/2021](#) (in Spanish) establishing four risk categories for plant products based on pest risk.
- The risk categorizations consider method of processing, level of processing, and intended use, and establishes the need for verification of compliance with certification requirements for imported organic produce.
 - Fresh fruit is placed in category three of the new risk profile among products that have not been processed and have a potential to introduce pests.
- The regulation has entered into force as of March 16, 2021.

EU Updates Animal and Plant Health Procedures

- On March 29, the European Commission issued Commission Implementing Regulation [2021/547](#) updating 2019/1715 regarding procedures for monitoring and certifying plant and animal health and safety.
- The regulation includes procedures for use of the system for notifying and reporting animal diseases (ADIS), the system for notifying official confirmation of pests in plant and plant products in member states (EUROPHYT) and the Trade Control and Export System for exchanging data and documents (TRACES).
- The new regulation enters into force on April 21, 2021 except for Article 1(5) regarding some EUROPHYT provisions which applies beginning on December 1, 2021.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Food Safety Authority Publishes Guide on Plastic Food Contact Material Approvals

- On March 22, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) [announced](#) the publication of an administrative [guide](#) on applying for approval of substances used in plastic and intended to come into contact with food.
- The guide includes procedures and timelines for submitting applications, the different possibilities for interacting with EFSA, support initiatives for application preparation, and information on the adoption of the EFSA scientific opinion.
- The requirements detailed in the guide are in effect as of March 27, 2021. The guide will be updated as needed to reflect relevant changes to legislation and guidance documents.

New Zealand Seeking Feedback on New Organic Regime

- New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) [notified](#) the WTO that it is [seeking public feedback](#) on proposed regulations for the approval and verification of businesses marketing organic products.
- The proposed regulations would help inform consumers about which products are organic and apply to all marketers of organic products including importers, exporters, and domestic businesses.
- MPI will also develop a national organic standard linked to the proposal.
- Comments are due to MPI by June 8, 2021, via the online consultation site.

Egypt Establishes Single-Window Online Customs System

- According to a GAIN [report](#) from March 29, Egypt's Ministry of Finance has issued Decree 38/2021 establishing a new single-window [system](#) for pre-shipment registration called Advanced Cargo information (ACI).
- The new system was created to modernize and automate customs administration, simplify procedures, and reduce clearance times.
- The decree requires that consignment documents be submitted through the single window system 48 hours before shipment arrival.
- The new system will be launched on April 1, 2021 and is expected to be fully implemented by July 1, 2021.

GCC Notifies of Draft Update to Plastic Packaging Technical Regulations

- On March 16, the GCC members [notified](#) the WTO of a draft update to the GCC Technical Regulation "Polyethylene Bags for Food Packaging Applications" ([available](#) through the GSO portal).
- The draft modifies regulations concerning HDPE and LDPE bags used for food production.
- Comments are due 60 days after notification and can be submitted through the GSO portal.