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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USDA FAS Officials Provide Updates on China COVID-19 Import Regulations**
- **Australia Seeking Comments on Consultation Document for FSANZ Act Reform**
- **Vietnam Notifies Draft Food Labeling Amendments**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA FAS Officials Provide Updates on China COVID-19 Import Regulations

- On April 22, USDA FAS Officials in China hosted a briefing on COVID-19 food import regulations for the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC).
- According to the FAS briefing, [GACC Public Notice 103](#), which was published in September 2020, continues to be the foundation of China's COVID-19 imported food policy. It requires the suspension for one week of export facilities following a positive COVID-19 test on food products or packaging for the first or second positive tests from that facility, and for four weeks for subsequent positive tests.
- In addition to Notice 103, some cities have implemented additional COVID-19 measures, including additional testing and disinfection of product. Concerns have been focused on frozen foods and, to a lesser extent, refrigerated foods. Dry, bulk products have been less of an issue to date.
- The embassy officials also spoke to heavy media coverage on the COVID-19 risk of imported foods, which peaked in January. Since January, the government and media have pulled back on casting doubt on imported food products, and consumer are regaining confidence in imported products.
- In January, a package of Chilean cherries tested positive for COVID-19, leading to a steep decrease in demand that cost the Chilean cherry industry upwards of US\$500 million. Informed by this incident, the U.S. Embassy encourages industries to have a plan of action in case of a positive test to counter inaccurate or misleading reporting and scientific claims. The Chilean cherry industry had a strong industry and government response in countering media reports and reassuring that cherries were safe for consumption (*BCI Monitor 1-26-21, 2-2-21*).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Seeking Comments on Consultation Document for FSANZ Act Reform

- On April 6, Australia [announced](#) it was seeking comments on a consultation [document](#) suggesting possible reforms to the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act).
- The consultation is part of the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation from November 2019 and the FSANZ Act Review, which began in July 2020.

*(Continued on next page)***A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Australia Seeking Comments on Consultation Document for FSANZ Act Reform (continued)

- The document offers the option of maintaining the status quo or adopting one of two sets of updates to refine or expand the FSANZ Act.
- Comments are accepted until May 18, 2021 through the Australian Government Department of Health consultation [portal](#).

Vietnam Notifies Draft Food Labeling Amendments

- Vietnam recently [notified the WTO](#) of [draft food labeling amendments](#) (in Vietnamese).
- The amendments modify [Decree 43/2017/ND-CP](#) which governs food labeling. A 2017 [USDA GAIN report](#) provides an unofficial English translation of the current language.
- Based on comparison of an informal translation, changes that may be relevant to imported foods include:
 - Addition to Article 3, allowing that some compulsory contents can be shown electronically in accordance with the provisions of the law,
 - Revision of language regarding secondary labeling in a new Article 10, Clause 2
 - Revision of Article 10, specifying that [prior to customs clearance](#), products must be labeled with the product name, name and address of the organization or entity responsible for the good, and origin or final manufacturing place of goods in Vietnamese or a foreign language.
 - Addition of two new clauses to Article 15 regarding origin of goods, requiring goods of unidentifiable origin to have a label representing the final stage of completion of goods such as, *assembled in, bottled in, mixed at, processed at, completed in, or packed and labeled in* with the name of the county or territory where the final stage was conducted to complete the goods.
 - Changes to Article 15, clause 3, points a and b, on food additive labeling allowing use of a country's food additive number in place of the international code (INS), if it coincides with the INS.
 - Addition to Appendix I, specific labeling requirements for Group 2: Foodstuffs, adds a requirement for *nutritional value (if any)* in accordance with guidance from the Ministry of Health
 - Addition of labeling requirements for a new Group 67: Food supplements and food processing aids, to Appendix I.
- Goods labeled in accordance with Decree 43/2017/ND-CP, and already manufactured, imported, or circulated before the effective date of this decree can continue in circulation until their expiration date.
- While the WTO notification does not provide a proposed date of adoption or entry into force, the draft decree indicates it will take effect in May 2021.
- Comments are due to cucqlchh@tcvn.gov.vn or qlghinhan@tcvn.gov.vn by June 25, 2021.