

MAY 11, 2021

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USDA FAS Publishes Unofficial Translation of Chinese Food Safety Regulations**
- **Stakeholder Call with USDA on Plastic Sustainability Initiatives**
- **Korea Publishes Draft Amendments to Regulations on the Inspection of Imported Foods**

A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USDA FAS Publishes Unofficial Translation of Chinese Food Safety Regulations**

- On November 12, 2020, China [notified the WTO](#) of its Revised Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety (GACC Decree 249) (*BCI Monitor* 4-27-21).
- USDA Foreign Agricultural Service has now published an [unofficial translation](#) of the measure, which will come into force on January 1, 2022. The [full Chinese text](#) is available on the GACC website.
- The regulation covers issues including facilities registration, record filing, quarantine, inspection, and labeling. Upon implementation, the measures will replace AQSIQ Decree 144 as well as other regulations covering meat, dairy, aquatic products, and honey.
- Notable changes include:
  - Emphasizing that producers and operators are accountable for safety of the food products they produce and handle
  - Introducing conformity assessments, which evaluate foreign food safety management systems and registration of overseas food export facilities, and require record filing by importers and exporters.
  - Requiring food importers to establish review systems for suppliers, including overseas exporters and production facilities
  - Detailing inspection procedures at ports of entry
  - Stipulating control measures in response to overseas food safety incidents

**Stakeholder Call with USDA on Plastic Sustainability Initiatives**

- This week, BCI and other industry representatives participated in several calls with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to discuss the position the U.S. Government should take on international initiatives to reduce and phase out plastic packaging for fresh produce and to make plastic packaging use more sustainable.
- In recent months, a number of countries have proposed legislation to restrict the use of single-use plastics for fresh products, including [France](#) (in French) and [New Zealand](#). It is anticipated that similar measures from other countries will increase in the coming months. In addition, the United Nations is initiating a multi-stakeholder process to consider instruments to address the issue of plastic waste.
- The U.S. Government is interested in stakeholder feedback about the availability of plastic alternatives that can be used for packaging, and about the role that plastic packaging plays in food loss, quality, and safety.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Stakeholder Call with USDA on Plastic Sustainability Initiatives (continued)*

- The feedback obtained will be used over the coming months and years to develop the U.S. position at the United Nations Environment Assembly and in bilateral discussions.

**Korea Publishes Draft Amendments to Regulations on the Inspection of Imported Foods**

- A [draft legislative proposal](#) (in Korean) would amend several Korean food import related regulations to improve the pre-import process and sampling.
- An informal translation suggests the amendment would allow on-site inspections, detailed inspections, and random sample inspections to be performed before bulk agricultural products enter bonded areas; and that bulk agricultural shipments with two or more foods should be jointly sampled.
- The amendment would also adjust the list of pesticide inspection items from 65 to 69 pesticides.
- Comments are due by June 9, 2021 to [jwj1223@korea.kr](mailto:jwj1223@korea.kr).