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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Mexico Extends Compliance Deadline for Organic Products Law to January 2022**

- On May 6, a [proposal to extend the compliance deadline](#) (in Spanish) for Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) was posted on the National Commission of Regulatory Improvement (CONAMER) website.
- Compliance with the LPO will now be mandated on January 1, 2022. The USDA suggests that U.S. organic exporters to Mexico continue working with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) to become certified to the LPO standards well in advance of the compliance date.
- The LPO requires that U.S. organic exports be certified by a National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) accredited certifying body, of which only 12 are also certified by the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP).
- Prior to the extension, the LPO was to enter into force on June 26, 2021 (*BCI Monitor* 4-20-21, 5-4-21).
- Additional details regarding the extension, including a translation, are available in a recent [USDA GAIN report](#).

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**First USMCA Free Trade Commission Meetings Held**

- On May 17 and 18, 2021, the first USMCA Free Trade Commission meetings were held virtually. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has provided readouts of Ambassador Katherine Tai's meetings with counterparts in [Mexico](#) and [Canada](#).
- In the Mexico meeting, USTR Tai emphasized the importance of ongoing issues including science- and risk-based regulatory approaches in agriculture, access for U.S. fresh potatoes to all of Mexico, and immediate resumption of authorizations for agricultural biotechnology products in Mexico.

**Australian Table Grapes Facing Delays in Chinese Ports**

- Australian table grapes are experiencing abnormally long clearance delays, up to 10 to 15 days longer than normal, at Chinese ports, according to [media statements](#) by the Australian Table Grape Association. The delays have affected 400 to 500 containers of table grapes.

**EU and India to Resume Trade Talks**

- In a [Joint Statement](#) following a European Union (EU)-India Leaders' Meeting, the two parties announced they have agreed to resume negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement.
- Previous EU-India trade talks were suspended in 2013.

### EAEU Publishes Draft Regulation on Packaging

- On April 12, 2021, Russia [notified the WTO of draft amendments](#) (in Russian) to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Technical Regulations on Safety of Packaging, which are intended to harmonize with European Union directives against the use of single-use plastics.
- Major changes in the amendments includes provisions for the definition, requirements, and labeling of biodegradable packaging.
- If packaging on imported goods does not have appropriate markings to identify the materials from which it is made, the importer is responsible for putting the necessary marking on the label.
- A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) provides an unofficial English translation of the amendments.
- Comments will be accepted until June 23, 2021 at [info@gostinfo.ru](mailto:info@gostinfo.ru). To be included in the official U.S. position, interested U.S. parties must share their comments with the National Institute of Standards and Technology at [ncsci@nist.gov](mailto:ncsci@nist.gov) by June 8, 2021.