

JUNE 1, 2021

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Taiwan Extends Temporary Approval of Electronic Import Documents**
- **USDA Provides Status Update on Chinese Decrees 248, 249**
- **Thailand Adds List of Good Handling Practices Standards**
- **EU Releases Guide on Upcoming Single-Use Plastic Rules Entry Into Force**
- **Taiwan Notifies Draft Nutrition Labeling Amendments**
- **Mexico Releases Comprehensive Guide to Food Labeling**

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Taiwan Extends Temporary Approval of Electronic Import Documents**

- Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) it has extended the approved use of electronic import documents until December 31, 2021. The measure was originally announced in March 2020 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and has been extended multiple times (*BCI Monitor 4-21-20, 9-1-20, 12-22-20*).
- Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) will accept scanned copies of certificates sent by the exporting country's competent authority or by the representative office in the Separate Customs Territories of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, or by Taiwan's representative office in the exporting country.

**USDA Provides Status Update on Chinese Decrees 248, 249**

- A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) provides a status update and clarifications from the government of regarding the *Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food (Decree 248, in Chinese)* and *Measures of the Administration of Import and Export Food Safety of the PRC (Decree 249, in Chinese)*, adopted on April 12 (*BCI Monitor 4-20-21*).
- Both measures have caused concerns among exporters about potential disruptions and are set to enter into force on January 1, 2022.
- Regarding Decree 248:
  - China will release implementing rules as soon as June 2021
  - China will grant a transition period in line with the basic principles of the WTO
  - The product scope extends to all foods, excluding food-additives and food-related products, including "low-risk food," alcohol, seasonings, and casings
  - GACC does not charge fees for overseas facility registration
  - Current registrations will remain valid
  - Stick-on labels are permitted for the required labeling of both the inner and outer packaging with a facility registration number
- Regarding Decree 249:
  - The decree covers all foods and beverages
  - Transitional procedures and requirements for foods without national food safety standards are formulated in accordance with Article 93 of the *Food Safety Law of China*
  - Record filing by importers and exporters of imported food is to be implemented in accordance with two 2012 Administrative Provisions

*(Continued on next page)*

### *USDA Provides Status Update on Chinese Decrees 248, 249 (continued)*

- Regarding Decree 249:
  - Credit management applies to production facilities and operators of imported foods, however China has not clarified what is meant by “credit management”
  - So far, no flexibility around the entry into force for Decree 249 has been offered
- Separate GAIN reports provide additional analysis, and translations, of [Decree 248](#) and [Decree 249](#) (BCI Monitor 5-11-21).
- BCI continues to work with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to seek further clarification on the measures.

### **Thailand Adds List of Good Handling Practices Standards**

- The Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) requires imported fresh produce to have a production standard certificate under an approved good handling standard as mandated by the [Ministry of Public Health Notification No. 386 B.E. 2560](#).
- [USDA reports](#) that TFDA has expanded its list of approved good handling practice standards to include the [GLOBAL GAP – Produce Handling Assurance version 1.2](#).

## **GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

### **EU Releases Guide on Upcoming Single-Use Plastic Rules Entry Into Force**

- The European Commission recently published a [guidance document](#) on Directive (EU) 2019/904 on single-use plastics. The directive was adopted in June 2019 and must be transposed into Member State’s national laws and applied as of July 3, 2021.
- By the July deadline, Member States must ensure that select single-use plastic are no longer placed on the EU market including cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers, all cups and food containers made of expanded polystyrene, and all products made of oxo-degradable plastics.

### **Taiwan Notifies Draft Nutrition Labeling Amendments**

- Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) of [draft amendments](#) to its Regulations on Nutrition Labeling for Prepackaged Food Products.
- Main updates include revisions regarding the labeling of products that require rehydration, conditions for labeling a caloric or nutrient value of “0”, and formatting of the values reported on labels.
- Note that per the [Prepackaged Food Products Exempted from Nutrition Labeling Regulation](#), fresh and frozen fruits and prepackaged foods not for sale to consumers are exempt from nutrition labeling requirements.
- Comments are due by June 30, 2021 to [tbtenq@bsmi.gov.tw](mailto:tbtenq@bsmi.gov.tw). Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force have yet to be determined.

### **Mexico Releases Comprehensive Guide to Food Labeling**

- Mexico’s Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) and Ministry of Health recently [published a guide](#) (in Spanish) on labeling specifications for prepackaged, non-alcoholic food and beverages.
- The guide provides comprehensive regulations and examples for all aspects of food labeling for prepackaged, non-alcoholic food and beverages, including the newly adopted front-of-pack nutritional warnings for foods high in calories, total sugar, salt, or saturated and trans fats.