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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Approves Seven New Methyl Bromide Fumigation Schedules for Fresh Cherries

- On Thursday, Australia finalized and updated import requirements for U.S. cherries to allow the use of [seven new methyl bromide \(MB\) treatment schedules](#) (new schedules in yellow).
- The new schedules allow shippers to utilize slightly longer fumigation times (2.5-3 hours), allowing for greater chamber capacities and potentially cooler temperatures.
- The treatment schedules are the result of several years of work by the California Cherry Board, USDA, and industry stakeholders.
- Shippers of California cherries to Australia may now use the new MB fumigation schedule for the current and future seasons. All other import requirements remain unchanged.
- Full details of Australia's import requirements for California cherries can be found in the [CCB Export Manual](#).

Australia Publishes Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 Plan

- On May 26, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) [announced](#) the publication of its strategic roadmap for Australia's biosecurity system: [Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030](#).
- The plan aims to expand offshore assurance arrangements and improve technologies used in detection and data collection while increasing collaboration with neighbors and integrating supply chains.
- Feedback on the plan can be submitted through the DAWE web announcement until June 30, 2021.

Japanese Tariffs on U.S. Fresh Cherries Reduced

- On April 1, 2021, the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA) entered "Year 3" of implementation.
- Per the agreement's schedule, the tariff on fresh Cherries (excl. sour cherries, HS 080929000) is now 1.7%.
- Fresh cherries will become duty free in Year 5, on April 1, 2023.
- Further information on USJTA tariff schedules can be found in a [USDA GAIN report](#) detailing the agreement's annual adjustments for fresh fruit.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

CPTPP Nations Agree to Accession Process for UK

- On June 2, the United Kingdom [announced](#) that the countries comprising the CPTPP had agreed to the UK's bid to begin the accession process to the trade bloc.

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CPTPP Nations Agree to Accession Process for UK (continued)

- The CPTPP trade agreement currently includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- The UK government statement does not provide a timeline for accession. The UK will publish documents detailing its accession process prior to the start of negotiations in the coming weeks.

EU Publishes Technical Guide on Paper and Board Food Contact Materials

- The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM) recently [published a technical guide](#) on paper and (paper)board used in food contact materials.
- The document provides technical guidance relating to requirements, compliance testing, and supporting documents in an effort to help standardize manufacturing and testing regulations of paper and board across Europe.

EU Provides Extensive Guide on Single-Use Plastics Regulation Scope

- The European Commission has published a notice containing Commission guidelines on single-use plastic products in accordance with [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#).
- The guidelines include detailed examples of products included and excluded from the scope of the directive.
- Last week, the European Commission published a guidance document specifying that the directive must be transposed into Member State's national laws and applied as of July 3, 2021 (*BCI Monitor 6-1-2021*).

China Opens Consultation on 23 Food Standards

- China's National Food Safety Standards Review Committee is consulting on [23 national food safety standards](#) (in Chinese).
- Standards (all in Chinese) undergoing consultation of relevance to CCB include:
 - [Standard Food Microbiological Inspection Sampling and Inspection Processing Regulations](#)
 - [Standard Determination of Free Phenol and Migration of Food Contact Materials and Products](#)
 - [Standard General Rules for Migration Test of Food Contact Materials and Products](#)
- Comments are due by July 20, 2021.

Korea to Allow Expanded Use of Recycled Plastic in Food Containers

- On May 28, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [announced](#) (in Korean) a new program for recycled plastics to be incorporated into food packaging.
- Beginning in January 2022, plastics collected from transparent bottles through a new PET separation and collection project can be used to manufacture food containers that meet the safety standards established by MFDS.
- To allow for the expanded use of recycled plastics, MFDS also [notified the WTO](#) of [proposed amendments](#) (in Korean) to the [Standards and Specifications for Food Utensils, Containers, and Packages](#).
- The proposed amendments revise the standards for recycled synthetic resins, as well as the test methods and terminology for food contact materials. Standards for synthetic resin and specifications for individual materials have also been rearranged.
- In addition, the draft updates add standards for active and intelligent packaging and standards and specifications of polyketone synthetic resin.
- The International Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety will be accepting comments until July 30, 2021 at intmfdskorea.kr.

USDA Releases Translation of Mexico's Comprehensive Guide to Food Labeling

- Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS), which supervises label verification at the point of entry and point of sales, recently [published a guide](#) (in Spanish) on labeling specifications for prepackaged, non-alcoholic food and beverages (*BCI Monitor 6-1-2021*).
- The USDA FAS has published a [courtesy English translation of the guide](#).
- The guide covers labeling requirements mandated by Standard NOM-051, which do not apply to food and non-alcoholic beverages in bulk presentation or packed at the point of sale and certain other products excluded by Mexican authorities.