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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Australia Amends Documentary Requirements for Fumigation Certificates of Imported Goods**

- The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) [announced](#) it has revised its minimum documentary and import declaration requirements for fumigation certificates, effective August 2, 2021.
- The revised requirements mandate use of a single statement, which accounts for timber thickness in addition to plastic wrapping requirements, to be used on all methyl bromide and sulfuryl fluoride certificates regardless of whether the treatment provider is registered with DAWE.
- No action is required for goods that are fumigated prior to export to Australia under the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS), to address the risk of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), or to address the risk of Khapra Beetle. Providers fumigating these goods are already required to make a statement confirming the target of the fumigation conforms to the plastic wrapping, impervious surface, and timber thickness requirements at the time of fumigation.
- All other goods requiring fumigation prior to shipment must comply by August 2, 2021. For further information, email [entrymanagement@awe.gov.au](mailto:entrymanagement@awe.gov.au).

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Maine Becomes First U.S. State to Sign Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging into Law**

- On July 12, Maine became the first U.S. state to sign into law an Extended Producer Responsibility law for packaging, [LD 1541: An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money](#).
- The law will assign companies financial or physical responsibilities for the disposal of non-recyclable packaging materials, with the funds used to expand city recycling programs.
- The bill provides an exemption for producers and retailers of perishable food for which products sold in Maine used less than 15 tons of packaging material in total in the prior year.
- Oregon's governor is expected to sign a similar law soon.

**EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices Launched**

- On July 5, the European Commission [launched](#) the [EU Code of Conduct](#) on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices.
- The code of conduct, one of the deliverables under the European Commission's [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), sets objectives towards sustainable production and consumption in the food value chain.

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*EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices Launched (continued)*

- Among 65 associations and companies to immediately sign the Code of Conduct without specific commitments is Freshfel, the European Fresh Produce Association, which represents the fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain including non-EU supply.
- For further information, the European Commission has published a [questions and answers page](#) and the USDA has published a [GAIN report](#) regarding the signatories and details of the Code of Conduct.

**European Commission Registers European EcoScore Citizens' Initiative**

- On June 30, the [European Commission approved the registration](#) of a [new European Citizens' Initiative](#) aiming to standardize and mandate a "European EcoScore."
- The initiative's proposed EcoScore would consist of a compulsory, clearly visible indication on all product packaging ranging from "A" for "very environmentally friendly" to "F" for "very harmful to the environment."
- Several voluntary private sector eco-scores have recently been introduced in Europe, including French supermarket giant Carrefour's Horizons system and Foundation Earth's pilot program.
- Collection of signatures for the European EcoScore Citizens' Initiative begins July 23, 2021. If the initiative receives over one million signatures in the EU within one year, including meeting specific thresholds in at least seven EU countries, the Commission will decide on what action to take, potentially including legislation. To date, there have been six successful initiatives, recently including the initiative [End the Cage Age](#), phasing out the use of cages in animal production.