

AUGUST 11, 2020

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USTR Seasonal Produce Hearings Start Thursday**
- **WTO Adopts Report on SPS Measures**
- **China Releases Revised Draft of Food Labeling Regulation**
- **Taiwan Restricts the Term “Health” in Food Product Names**
- **Organic Certification Enters into Force in Peru**
- **U.S., Hong Kong Trade Relations in Flux**

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USTR Seasonal Produce Hearings Start Thursday**

- The USTR [announced](#) additional details on hearings to be held on how trade distorting policies are affecting U.S. seasonal and perishable producers. (*BCI Monitor 07-21-20*)
- The [first hearing](#) will take place on August 13, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT and predominantly features lawmakers, agricultural groups, and growers from Florida. The second hearing will take place on August 20, 2020 and will feature Georgia lawmakers and growers.
- A livestream of the hearing will be available on the USTR’s [website](#). Transcripts of the hearing will be made available after the hearings.

**WTO Adopts Report on SPS Measures**

- The World Trade Organization recently [published](#) the Report of the Fifth Review of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement.
- The report contains recommendations on topics proposed by WTO members and provides an overview of the work undertaken by the SPS Committee from 2014 to 2019.
- Risk analysis and enhancing the role of science in the WTO SPS Agreement feature as key recommendations of the report, in conjunction with greater coordination between technical and trade policy experts at the national level.
- The report also recommends greater transparency, predictability, and collaboration with respect to the review and establishment of pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) around the world, with more consideration given to stakeholder feedback when considering proposed changes.

**China Releases Revised Draft of Food Labeling Regulation**

- On July 27, 2020, the Chinese National Food Quality Supervision and Inspection Center [released](#) (in Chinese) a [new draft](#) (in Chinese) of, “Measures for Supervision and Administration of Food Labeling.”
- Informal translation suggests possible modifications of Articles 14.2.v (naming plant based analogue foods), 27 (declaration of iodized foods), and 28 (declaring reconstituted milk content). Exporters are encouraged to seek a professional translation to identify relevant modifications. Comments will be open through August 26, 2020.

**Taiwan Restricts the Term “Health” in Food Product Names**

- Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) that it has finalized [regulations](#) that will deem use of the term “health” in a food product name misleading.
- Food products with a health food permit are exempt.
- The regulation takes effect on July 1, 2022.

### Organic Certification Enters Into Force in Peru

- Peru's [Regulation on Certification and Oversight of Organic Production](#) (in Spanish) entered into force on August 6, 2020.
- Chapter VI covers imported organic products. To be marketed as organic in Peru, consignments must be accompanied by original certification from the competent authority in the country of origin.

### U.S., Hong Kong Trade Relations in Flux

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection released a [notice](#) that, in response to the revocation of Hong Kong's "Special Status" (*BCI Monitor 7-14-20*), all products imported from Hong Kong to the United States must indicate China as their origin. The "Made in China" labels will be required starting on September 25, 2020.
- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has [responded](#), saying it "strongly objects" to the Federal Register notice. Hong Kong is currently mulling acting under WTO rules to protect Hong Kong's interests. Hong Kong is a member of the WTO in its own right, and has maintained this separate membership since its return to mainland China.