

OCTOBER 26, 2021

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes GAIN Report on GACC Decrees 248, 249

- USDA recently released a [GAIN report](#) containing notes taken by USDA/FAS staff in China during two recent outreach sessions conducted by surrogates for the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on Decrees 248 and 249.
- USDA emphasizes that the notes are an unofficial record of the information sessions and the statements do not necessarily represent the official position of GACC.
- Of note, the GACC plans to release an online tool to identify which commodity group applies to a product by HS code, determining which type of registration will be required. The presentations also covered registration number labeling, the CIFER system and single window registration, and the status of bilateral agreements and protocols.
- [Decree 248](#) and [Decree 249](#) will enter into force on January 1, 2022. To date, China has not released implementation regulations for the decrees nor answered U.S. industry and government questions. FAS encourages interested entities to contact GACC with questions directly at shipinjuyichu@customs.gov.cn and division_registration@customs.gov.cn.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Commission Updates Import Procedures for Some Organic Products

- On October 21, the European Commission adopted a [delegated act](#), exempting some organic and in-conversion products from official control at border posts.
- Exempted products will be checked for compliance with rules and regulations by the competent authorities at specified control points, located where the products will start free circulation in the EU market.
- Animal products, products of animal origin, animal by-products, products requiring a phytosanitary certificate, and products under temporary or emergency measures will not be exempted from official control at border posts. A list of specific products exempted from control at border posts is not given at this point in time.
- The delegated act shall apply from January 1, 2022, unless the EU Council and Parliament publish their objection to implementation by December 21, 2021.

USDA Releases Initial Partners in SPG Coalition

- USDA [announced](#) the initial supporters of the Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation ([SPG Coalition](#)) (*BCI Monitor 9-21-21, 9-28-21*).

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USDA Releases Initial Partners in SPG Coalition (continued)

- As of October 26, supporters include Australia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), numerous academic and research organizations, trade associations, and foundations.
- The goal of the SPG Coalition is to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems through productivity growth that optimizes agricultural sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

USDA Resumes Trade Missions in 2022

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) in-person trade missions will resume next year. The [first trade mission](#) is planned for February 16-21, 2022, and delegates will visit Dubai (United Arab Emirates).
- The U.S. exports an average of \$1.2 billion annually in food and agricultural products to the United Arab Emirates.
- The deadline to [apply](#) for the mission to Dubai is November 8, 2021.

Japan to End Flexible Enforcement of Non-Critical Food Labeling Requirements due to COVID-19

- Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) recently [announced](#) (in Japanese) it will repeal the temporary suspension of strict monitoring for non-critical food labeling information on December 31, 2021.
- The temporary suspension was initially [announced](#) on April 10, 2020 in response to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions. Critical labeling information that was required to stay on labels included allergen labeling, expiration date, heating requirements, and other information related to consumer health.

Mexico Publishes Update to Microbiology Test Methods for Comment

- The National Consultative Committee for Sanitary Regulation and Promotion recently [published](#) for comment a modification to standard NOM-210-SSA1-2014 for microbiological test methods.
- The update includes changes to the formulations of several culture media and counting techniques for bacteria.
- Comments are due by December 18, 2021 and may be mailed to rfs@cofepris.gob.mx (in Spanish).

India Publishes Microbiology Sampling Guidelines for Comment

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently [published](#) for comment General Guidelines on Sampling for Microbiology Analysis.
- The guidelines detail sampling procedures and microbiological specification for several food categories, including fruits and vegetables.
- Comments are due by November 13, 2021 and may be submitted to FSSAI through the following address: sp-sampling@fssai.gov.in.

India Publishes Draft Extended Producer Responsibility Requirements for Plastic Waste

- India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently published a [draft notification](#) (English begins on pg. 20) regarding extended producer responsibility (EPR) for plastic waste management.
- The draft EPR regulations are being implemented under India's Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The EPR regulations establish the plastic collection and recycling responsibilities of producers, importers, and brand owners (PIBOs) and apply to both pre-consumer and post-consumer plastic packaging waste.
- The regulations specify relevant terms, registration processes for PIBOs, relevant plastic packaging categories, and target recycling obligations beginning in 2023.
- Comments may be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change by December 7, 2021, through the following email addresses: satyendra.kumar07@nic.in, amit.love@nic.in.

Brazil Launches Label for Products with Geographical Indication

- Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply [announced](#) a label for all products from regions in Brazil that registered for Geographical Indication (GI) with the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). INPI recently published the corresponding [ordinance](#) (in Portuguese), which enters into force on November 1, 2021.
- According to the press release, products such as almonds, cheese, fruit, coffee, and flour may benefit from the unique label detailed in the [implementation manual](#) (in Portuguese).
- A full list of products and regions granted Geographical Indications by INPI is available on [INPI's webpage](#) (in Portuguese).

New Zealand-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Announced

- The [United Kingdom](#) (UK) and [New Zealand](#) have announced agreement on the [principles of a free trade agreement](#) (FTA).
- This follows the announcement by the UK of an FTA with Australia (*BCI Monitor 6-15-21*) and an economic partnership agreement with Japan (*BCI Monitor 9-12-20*).
- The UK-New Zealand FTA will eliminate tariffs on all products. UK will open its markets for selected products (beef and sheep meat, butter, and cheese) over a period of up to 15 years, while all other tariffs will be abolished the day this FTA enters into force.
- The two countries must now finalize the text and ratify the agreement before entry into force.
- The United States currently has an [FTA in force](#) with New Zealand but does not have an FTA with the UK.

Update on the EU Farm to Fork Strategy

- On October 1, the European Commission (EC) launched the [roadmap](#) for a new Food Waste Reduction Directive.
 - The directive will propose legally binding targets to reduce food waste for each stage of the food chain. Defining and implementing measures to reach the targets will be the responsibility of the Member States. An EU legislative proposal is expected in 2023.
 - Initial [feedback](#) can be given until October 29, 2021 (midnight Brussels time). A full public consultation will be held later.
- On October 19, the EC [adopted](#) its [work program for 2022](#).
 - A legislative proposal for a [revised Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive](#) is expected before April 2022.
 - A (non-legislative) policy framework for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics will be launched by end of June 2022.
- [On October 20](#), the EU parliament adopted a [resolution](#) (non-legislative) related to the Farm to Fork strategy.
 - It welcomes the EC initiative and in particular:
 - binding targets for pesticide use reduction,
 - front-of-pack nutritional labelling,
 - setting maximum intake levels for sugar, salt, and fat, and
 - increasing the area under organic farming practices.
 - The parliament emphasizes the need for scientific ex-ante impact assessments of any legislative proposal related to the Farm to Fork strategy.
 - It also requests a fair compensation of EU farmers, promoted by legislation strengthening their position in the value chain, and that imports of animal products comply with EU Animal Welfare Standards.