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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

**SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

**India Agrees to Finalize Market Access of U.S. Cherries**

- On November 23, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative published a [Joint Statement from the United States – India Trade Policy Forum](#) listing agreements reached in recent bilateral meetings.
- Both countries have agreed to enhanced market access for select agricultural products. Of note, India intends to finalize phytosanitary work to allow the importation of U.S. cherries.
- The Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Working Groups are to develop, by March 2022, plans of action for making substantive progress on all goals outlined in the statement and a set of specific trade outcomes are to be identified that could be finalized for an inter-sessional TPF meeting to be held by mid-2022.

**CDFA Changes LBAM and MedFly Quarantine Boundaries**

- On November 16, the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) expanded the quarantine areas for [light brown apple moth \(LBAM\)](#) and [Mediterranean fruit fly \(MedFly\)](#).
- The San Luis Obispo Regulated Area Boundary is expanded to include San Luis Obispo – Arroyo Grande, Grids 364, 365, and 382 for LBAM.
- A new MedFly Quarantine Boundary has been added in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties – Upland Area.

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

**Brazil Changes Import Licensing System for Food Products**

- On November 18, Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) [informed](#) importers that requests for food import licenses shall be made through Brazil's [Portal Único Siscomex](#) using the module "Licenses, Permissions, Certificates and Other Documents (LPCO)" – effective immediately.
- To smooth transition to the new system, the current application system *Peticionamento Eletrônico de Importação (PEI)* remains available until further notice.
- Anvisa also published a [step-by-step guide](#) (in Portuguese).

**Singapore Updates Phytosanitary Certificate**

- On November 18, Singapore [notified](#) the WTO of a new phytosanitary certificate, effective December 1, 2021. Both the current and new certificates can be used during an (unspecified) transition period.
- Main changes include new (light green/sage) paper being utilized to produce the certificate with optical watermark, and the word "COPY" being added to the invisible watermark on the top portion of the certificate.

### Thailand's Updated Plastic Cling Film Regulation Entering Into Force

- Thailand's amendments to its [Industrial Standard for Stretch Cling Film for Food \(TIS 1136-2559\(2016\)\)](#) (in Thai) enter into force on November 24, 2021.
- Thailand notified the WTO of the final amendments in June 2021.
- The regulation outlines relevant materials, general requirements, testing methods, and migration limits for plastic stretch cling film for food.

### UK Sustainable Plastics Policy Developments

- The United Kingdom has [adopted or is considering several sustainability policies](#) related to plastics, including:
  - A [plastics packaging tax](#) will be implemented in August 2022 with a £200 per metric ton tax on plastic packaging not meeting a minimum threshold of 30% recycled content. The tax applies to imported packaging, both filled and unfilled, but does not apply to packaging that is not majority plastic by weight.
  - [Consultation](#) is open on a [proposed ban](#) of single-use plastic plates and cutlery and expanded/extruded polystyrene food and beverage containers in England. Comments are due by February 12, 2022. Scotland recently [finalized a similar ban](#) which enters into force on June 1, 2022 (*BCI Monitors 8-24-21, 11-16-21*).
  - As part of the recently passed [Environment Act 2021](#), the UK will introduce a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles, Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for packaging, and consistent recycling collection for all homes and businesses.
  - The Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs has issued an [open consultation/call for evidence](#) on commonly littered single-use plastics in England such as sachets and single-use cups. Potential policy measures mentioned for these items including banning plastic versions and mandatory labeling.

### Taiwan Notifies Proposed Ban on Polyvinylchloride in Some Packaging

- Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration recently [notified the WTO](#) of a [draft for the restriction on the production, importation, and sale of plate packaging material containing polyvinylchloride \(PVC\), designated recyclable containers, and non-plate disposable tableware containers](#).
- The draft prohibits the use of PVC in plastic packaging materials for several food categories including fruits, vegetables, and nuts.
- Feedback is due by January 21, 2022. Submissions can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov).

### Chile Opened Public Consultation on Heavy Metals in Food Products Regulation

- Chile is conducting a [public consultation](#) on [draft amendments](#) (in Spanish) to the *Supreme Decree N. 977/96, Ministry of Health, Food Sanitary Regulation, Article 160, Title IV of Heavy Metals*.
- The amendments will align the current regulation with the Codex Standard "General Standard for Contaminants and Feed" (CXS 193-1995). For products not covered by Codex, regulations in Europe and/or in New Zealand and Australia will serve as reference.
- Food contaminants addressed by this amendment include arsenic, mercury, cadmium, lead, and tin.
- Comments can be sent to [rodolfo.rivers@minsal.cl](mailto:rodolfo.rivers@minsal.cl) and [pchavez@minsal.cl](mailto:pchavez@minsal.cl), using the Ministry of Health's [Word document for comments](#), until January 2, 2022.

### United States and Japan Announce Trade Partnership

- On November 17, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry [announced](#) the launch of the U.S.-Japan Partnership on Trade. While the press statement mentions trade facilitation, neither agriculture nor agricultural trade were highlighted as a priority area.
- First meetings will be held in early 2022.