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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.

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 and 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.