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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. Implements New Format for Phytosanitary Certificates

- The U.S. has [notified](#) the WTO of changes to the format of phytosanitary certificates issued for export and re-export.
- According to the notice, the U.S. has updated security measures in its Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) system to facilitate the electronic submission of plain paper phytosanitary certificates. The U.S. will begin printing all phytosanitary certificates on plain paper starting January 1, 2022.
- Additional details and sample certificates are provided on the [APHIS website](#).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Updates

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement will enter into force on January 1, 2022, as six member states of the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) and three ASEAN Free Trade Agreement partners have now ratified the agreement.
- As of November 2, the following countries have ratified the agreement: Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei, Japan, China, and Singapore.
- Signatories that have not yet ratified the agreement include Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines.
- RCEP was signed in November 2020, after eight years of negotiations. If implemented by all signatories, RCEP will represent approximately one third of the world's GDP and population. It also marks Japan's first free trade agreement with China or South Korea (*BCI Monitors 11-17-20, 11-24-20*).

Vietnam Issues Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030, Vision to 2050

- On October 1, Vietnam issued [Prime Minister Decision No 1658/QĐ-TTg](#) to approve the National Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030, Vision to 2050.
- In addition to changes in domestic agricultural production towards a circular economy and climate smart agriculture, the plan lists encouraging eco-labels, green labels, and carbon labels as a strategic orientation.
- The USDA released an unofficial [English translation](#) of the decision in a [recent GAIN report](#).

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**



Updates on Chinese Decree 248

- On November 2, the General Administration of Customs for China (GACC) published an [English translation](#) of Decree 248 *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Production Enterprises of Imported Food*. On November 5, GACC published an [Interpretation](#) (in Chinese) of Decree 248. The interpretation adds context and guidance for each article of Decree 248.
- In a [recent email from the U.S. Food & Administration \(FDA\)](#), the agency reported that during a November 4 meeting, GACC shared that it plans to publish guidance on which registration procedures apply to particular H.S. codes and reiterated that current trade would not be affected.
- On November 1, [registration opened](#) for overseas production facilities for foods that do not require recommendation of foreign competent authorities under Article 9 of [Decree 248](#). The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service has not yet published a translated guide on how to register, but did indicate in a [recent GAIN report](#) that a guide would be forthcoming. The FDA has shared that firms may provide their FDA Establishment Identifier (FEI) as the identification or approval number for registration with China.

Mercosur Publishes Several Technical Regulations

- On October 13, Mercosur adopted three technical regulations related to food contact materials. All resolutions are available in Spanish and Portuguese.
- [Resolution N° 19/21](#) amends [GMC Resolution N° 02/12](#), adding numerous food contact materials to Mercosur's positive list of monomers, other starting substances, and authorized polymers for the manufacture of plastic packaging and equipment in contact with foods.
- [Resolution N° 20/21](#) amends [GMC Resolution N° 56/92](#), setting total migration limits (LMT) for plastic food contact packaging and equipment to 10 milligrams per square decimeter of contact surface area (mg/dm²) for non-volatile substances to food simulants.
- [Resolution N° 21/21](#) amends [GMC Resolution N° 40/15](#), adding four food contact materials to the technical regulation on materials, packaging and cellulosic equipment intended to be in contact with food.
- Mercosur members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The three resolutions must be transposed into national law by April 11, 2022, after which the policy will be implemented following a grace period of 360 days for Resolutions N° 19/21 and N° 20/21.
- In July, Mercosur also adopted [Resolution N° 3/21](#) repealing and replacing [GMC N° 07/08](#), establishing the metrological control of pre-measured and pre-packaged products marketed in units of mass or volume equal to nominal content. This resolution must be transposed into national law by January 22, 2022.