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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

FAS Publishes Guide on Mexico's Organic Product Law

- On January 1, Mexico's [Organic Products Law \(LPO\)](#) becomes mandatory for imported and domestic organic products (*BCI Monitors 11-9-21, 12-7-21*). In light of this, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) published a [guide](#) explaining the enforcement of the law by the government of Mexico.
- Enforcement will differ by organic product category and by the competent authority. The National Service for Food and Agricultural Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) is responsible for controls of [imports](#) at the point of entry, the Consumer Protection Office (PROFECO) will enforce the law at the point of sale of domestic and imported products.

Study on Supply Chain Gridlock and California Agriculture

- A [study recently released by the University of California's Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics](#) found that the supply-chain gridlock and shipping container shortage caused California's containerized agricultural exports to decrease 17 percent between May and September 2021, an estimated \$2.1 billion in lost foreign sales.
- High shipping prices for containers bringing imports from China to the U.S., low shipping prices for containerized goods from the U.S. to Asia, and slow turn-around times in California led to many containers returning to Asia empty. Pre-pandemic, 63 percent of all containers leaving California ports were empty, compared to 75 percent between May and August 2021, and 79 percent in September 2021.
- California's ports rank among the worst in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index, with out of 351 ports, Los Angeles ranking at 337, Long Beach at 341, and Oakland at 334, reflecting their inefficient turn-around.

China Publishes 2022 Tariff Rates

- China's State Council Tariff Commission (SCTC) published the [2022 annual tariff adjustment plan](#). An [unofficial translation and analysis](#) of *SCTC Notice No. 18 (2021)* for agriculture-related products has been published by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).
- Fresh cherries are not mentioned in the FAS reporting.

The U.S., Mexico, and Guatemala Announce Joint Actions Against Mediterranean Fruit Fly

- The United States, Mexico, and Guatemala will apply [phytosanitary actions](#) across 53,345 square miles under the Trilateral Moscardine Program against the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) in 2022.
- Mexico's National Service for Agrifood, Health, Safety, and Quality (Senasica) and Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) report successful implementation of the program in 2021, with catches of wild Medflies compared to 2020 reduced by 93 percent in Mexico and 76 percent in Guatemala.

Canada Extends Temporary Packaging and Labeling Flexibility for U.S. Products Sold in British Columbia

- In response to extreme flooding in British Columbia, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has published a [notice to industry](#) allowing for temporary flexibility regarding labeling and packaging of products imported from the U.S., including fresh fruits and vegetables (*BCI Monitor 11-30-21*).
- Enforcement discretion is extended to February 28, 2022.

Canada Launches Public Consultation on Single-Use Plastics Prohibition

- On December 25, 2021, Canada's Department of Health and Department of Environment published the [draft *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations* for comment](#).
- The draft regulations pertain to manufacturing, importing, and selling checkout bags, cutlery, and food service ware made from or containing problematic plastics, as well as ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws.
- A [guidance document](#) for selecting alternatives to single-use plastics was also published for comment.
- Comments can be submitted by email to ec.plastiques-plastics.ec@ec.gc.ca until March 5, 2022.

EU Publishes New Rules for Trade in Organic Products

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Vietnam Publishes Food Labeling Amendments

- Vietnam approved [Decree 111/2021/ND-CP](#) (in Vietnamese), amending and replacing *Decree 43/2017/ND-CP* on Goods Labeling (*BCI Monitor 4-27-21*). The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) published an [analysis](#) and [an unofficial translation of the Decree](#).
- The Decree does not apply to fresh or raw foods.
- FAS notes changes in the following areas of the labeling standard for imported food products:
 - Mandatory content on the original labels (amending Article 10 of Decree 43)
 - Name of the entity responsible for the product (amending Article 12 of Decree 43)
 - Country of Origin (amending Article 15 of Decree 43)
 - iv) Quantities of ingredients (amending Article 16 of Decree 43)
 - Nutritional labeling for processed foods (replacing Appendix I of Decree 43)
 - Requirements for ingredient/food additive declaration (replacing Appendix IV of Decree 43).
- The *Decree* enters into force on February 15, 2022. Goods labeled in accordance with Decree 43/2017/ND-CP and already manufactured, imported, or circulated before the effective date of this decree can continue in circulation until their expiration date.