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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Vaccine Requirements Extend to Essential Workers for U.S., Canada

- Both the U.S. and Canada are ending COVID-19 vaccination exemptions for cross-border truck drivers.
- On January 15, Transport Canada [began requiring foreign drivers](#) to be fully vaccinated before entering the country via a land border. Unvaccinated Canadian drivers are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon re-entry into Canada.
- On January 22 the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS) began requiring all non-U.S. individuals entering the U.S. at points of entry (land, bridge, or ferry terminal) to be fully vaccinated. DHS has provided a [FAQ on vaccine requirements](#) at the border.

India to Finalize Systems Approach for Pacific Northwest Cherries

- The Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently [announced](#) that, under a framework agreement reached with the USDA, India will work to facilitate imports of U.S. cherries from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) under a systems approach protocol.
- It is understood that bilateral discussions on this issue have been occurring for many years, but work was halted following a deterioration of trade relations between the U.S. and India under the Trump Administration.
- The recent announcement follows the resumption last November of the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum, during which U.S. and Indian officials outlined commitments to advance a number of long-standing market access commitments, including the PNW cherry systems approach issue.
- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) summarized the developments in a [GAIN report](#). U.S. cherries are currently subject to a 30% basic customs duty in India.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Notifies Draft Quarantine Procedures for Imports

- China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) [notified](#) draft [Measures for Administration of Quarantine Access of Entry Animals and Plants](#). The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has published an unofficial English translation of the measures, which apply only to products imported for the first time or after a suspension.
- The draft measures clarify the procedures for quarantine access of entry for animals and plants based on the Administrative Provisions on Risk Analysis of Entry Animals and Animal Products and the Administrative Provisions on Risk Analysis of Imported Plants and Plant Products. They are also in accordance with the Biosecurity Law of the People's Republic of China, effective April 15, 2021.
- The measures are expected to enter into force on April 1, 2022.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at us.spsequirypoint@fas.usda.gov until March 7, 2022.

A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

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Ecuador Applies to Join CPTPP

- Last month, Ecuador [formally applied](#) for accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- Currently, the CPTPP is fully in force for Australia, Brunei, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Brunei, Chile, and Malaysia are signatories to the trade deal, but have not yet ratified it.
- Ecuador joins the United Kingdom, China, and Taiwan in seeking accession into the trade pact (*BCI Monitors 2-8-21, 6-8-21, 9-14-21, 9-21-21, 9-28-21, 12-14-21*). South Korea [plans](#) to officially apply to the CPTPP in mid-April 2022.
- According to the CPTPP accession protocol, members must determine “within a reasonable period of time” whether to begin an applicant’s accession process.

Chile Passes Updated Water Code

- On January 12, the Chilean Senate [unanimously passed](#) reforms to the country’s Water Code, governing the allocation of water. The law was debated in the legislature for 11 years, and now must be approved by the President before being published in the Official Gazette.
- A recent [USDA GAIN](#) report summarizes the law and discusses potential impacts on agriculture.
- Under the update, water will be allocated under 30-year renewable concessions. Water rights used for direct consumption, including agriculture, may be revoked after five years of non-use or underuse.
- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) expects that the modernized Water Code will impact agriculture and agriculture investments, particularly in northern and central Chile, where cherry production is centered, as the region is becoming progressively drier. If access to water is not guaranteed for the 20 to 30 years required for return on investments to be realized in fruit orchards, FAS predicts that producers will consider alternative crops with a shorter lifecycle or move further south.
- Earlier this month, Japan’s Consumer Affairs Agency (CFA) launched a [public consultation](#) on [draft Guidelines for Labeling Of Non-Use of Food Additives](#) (in Japanese) under the *Food Labeling Standard (2015 Cabinet Office Ordinance No. 10)* (*BCI Monitor 1-11-22*). The proposal sets guidelines for appropriate use of “additive-free” on food labels.