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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**China Publishes Second Edition of Cold Chain COVID-19 Guidelines**

- China's Ministry of Health recently published a second edition of [Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#) of the *Technical Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus in Cold Chain Food Production and Operation*.
- The [first edition of the technical guidelines](#) were originally adopted in October 2020. The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) subsequently provided an [unofficial English translation](#).
- The guidelines apply to the prevention and control of COVID-19 in the production, loading and unloading, transportation, storage, and sale of cold chain foods. Requirements include procedures such as additional COVID-19 testing for workers, testing the packages of food, disinfecting packages, etc.
- China has consistently asserted that imported cold chain foods play a role in the spread of COVID-19 and suspends imports of products if packaging tests positive for COVID-19. While the majority of China's measures have targeted imports of frozen foods, Chilean cherries saw sharp declines in sales in February 2021 following a positive COVID-19 test on packaging and subsequent widespread rumors on social media.

**USDA to Invest \$1 Billion in Climate Smart Commodities**

- The USDA [announced](#) it will spend \$1 billion to support [Climate-Smart Commodities](#), defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.
- Funding will be provided for partners to pilot projects that incentivize producers and landowners to:
  - Implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands
  - Measure/quantify, monitor, and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices, and
  - Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.
- A large range of public and private entities are eligible for funding. For proposals over \$5 million, applications are due by April 8. Proposals ranging from \$250,000 to under \$5 million are due by May 27.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Canada to Amend Wood Pallet Requirements for Third Countries, Excluding Continental U.S.**

- Canada [notified the WTO](#) it has proposed revisions to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) directive on wood packaging material (WPM): [D-98-08 Entry requirements for wood packaging material into Canada](#).
- The directive is being revised to reflect [amendments made to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures \(ISPM 15\)](#) in 2018. Additionally, it will incorporate a new shipborne dunnage program.
- Currently, wood packaging materials from the continental United States via any mode of transport are exempt from CFIA policy D-98-08.
- More information on Canada's wood packaging regulations are available from a [CFIA questions and answer document](#) published in September 2020.

### EU Court Decision Issued Regarding Ingredient Labeling in EU Member States

- The European Court of Justice published its [decision](#) (in French, German) in the case Tesco vs. the Czech Republic. The case deals with the interpretation and implementation of [Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers](#), and related regulations, and ingredient terms listed in corresponding national legislation.
- The decision of the EU Court of Justice has implications for the translation of labels into the Member States' national language by ruling that linguistically correct translation may still be in breach with consumer information regulations if the exact term is not listed in the Member State's regulation. The ingredient in question in this court case was chocolate powder. The term "čokoláda v prášku" ("chocolate powder") is listed in the relevant Czech regulation, while the term used by Tesco in the label of a food product, "čokoládový prášek" ("chocolate in powder"), is not listed in the relevant regulation.

### U.S. and Brazil Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation Enters into Force

- On February 2, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) that the updated [U.S.-Brazil Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation \(ATEC\)](#) has entered into force. USTR released an accompanying [fact sheet](#) highlighting important changes.
- The new protocol adds three annexes to ATEC focusing on Trade Facilitation and Customs Administration, Good Regulatory Practices, and Anti-Corruption based on the relevant chapters of the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement. The protocol includes provisions of potential importance to CCB's members (*BCI Monitor 10-27-20*), including:
  - Acceptance of electronic documents under specific international standards, including e-Phyto electronic phytosanitary certificates.
  - A new article (Article 11) promoting good border practices regarding Agricultural and Other Goods Vulnerable to Deterioration (AOGVD) including electronic submission of entry process documents, automation of quota administration procedures, reasonable inspection hours, and a review of entry process requirements.
  - Online publication of draft regulations with comment periods and appropriate consideration of comments.

### Australia Expanding Khapra Beetle Measures

- Australia [recently announced](#) it will be moving to Phases 4 and 5 of its khapra beetle measures on April 28, 2022. The measures expand products affected by the measures to including [other-risk plant products](#) from [all](#) countries. The expansion [does not](#) include fresh fruit.
- Under [Phase 4](#), expansion includes dried fruits and unprocessed plant products (excluding fresh fruit).
- Affected products exported on or after April 28, 2022 must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the additional declaration: "*Representative samples were inspected and found free from evidence of any species of Trogoderma (whether live, dead or exuviae) in Australia's list of Trogoderma species of biosecurity concern.*"
- Previous Khapra beetle measures affected [high-risk products](#) from [high-risk countries](#), predominantly in the Middle East and Africa. A full list of import conditions will be released closer to implementation.

### UK Deadline Approaching for Certification of Organic Control Bodies

- The United Kingdom (UK) updated its [guide for importers of organic food](#).
- New and already certified organic control bodies and authorities need to apply by April 29, 2022 for recognition by the UK after January 1, 2023.
- The UK's webpage on ["Organic food: labelling and advertising rules"](#) provides a summary of the organic legislation in force in the UK at the bottom of the page.

### UK Opens Public Consultation on Customs Regime

- On February 7, the United Kingdom (UK) opened the [public consultation](#) on its revision of the customs system with particular focus on transit facilitation, customs declaration processes and the intermediary sector.
- A [summary of the consultation questions](#) is published on the consultation website.
- Comments can be submitted via email to [customscallforevidence@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:customscallforevidence@hmrc.gov.uk) until May 2, 2022.