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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S., Australia to Hold SPS Talks in 2022

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) recently [announced](#) that the U.S. and Australia have committed to convening a meeting of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee under the countries' Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The meeting is to take place before the end of the year, with continued conversations on agricultural trade priorities ahead of the meeting.

Chief Agriculture Negotiator Nomination withdrawn

- This week, the nomination for Elaine Trevino as the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative [was withdrawn by the White House](#). Trevino was initially nominated in September 2021 (*BCI Monitor* 9-14-21). A new nominee has yet to be announced.
- The Chief Agriculture negotiator is responsible for leading international negotiations related to trade in agricultural products.

U.S., UK Announce Trade Talks

- On March 16, the [Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#) and the [UK Department for International Trade](#) announced they will hold Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade on March 21 and 22 in Baltimore, MD, and an additional session in the UK later this spring.
- The talks will include local and national stakeholders and stem from the country's commitment to a new [Atlantic Charter](#) in June 2021.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Ecuador, China Enter into Free Trade Negotiations

- In February, China and Ecuador [published in a joint statement](#) (in Chinese) that they had entered negotiations on a China-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement.

China Publishes Draft Revision of Excess Food Packaging Restrictions

- On March 8, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology [announced a comment period](#) for a draft [first revision](#) of pending mandatory standard *GB23350-2021 Restriction of Excessive Packaging Requirements for Food and Cosmetics*.
- *GB23350-2021* has been [announced](#), but the text cannot be accessed. The proposed first revision adds requirements for mooncakes and rice dumplings. Machine translation of the draft revision suggests that under *GB23350-2021* food packaging will be limited to three layers; the cost of packaging will be limited to 20% of the selling price of the product; and a "necessary space factor" will be established for specific food commodities.
- *GB23350-2021* is to come into force on September 1, 2023; however, the draft revision indicates an August 1, 2022 implementation date for new provisions related to mooncakes and dumplings.
- Comments are due on the new revision by April 6, 2022.

Australia Reminds Importers of Documentation Requirements Related to Biosecurity Risks

- On March 16, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (DAWE) [published](#) the *Import Industry Advice Notice 38-2022* regarding conflicting information in packing declarations that will cause rejection of documentation under the *Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy*, revised version (4.0), implemented in August 2, 2021.
- Specifically, DAWE notes that declarations may state that timber/bamboo packaging has not been used in a consignment, but also that timber/bamboo packaging used in the consignment has not been treated. This constitutes conflicting information.
- To support compliance, DAWE provides [templates for packaging declarations](#), an [FAQ document](#), and a [summary](#) of the revised policy.