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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Updates Tariff Rates April 1st

- The latest phase of tariff reductions under the [U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement](#) are effective as of April 1, 2022, the start of the Japanese Government's financial year. Japan also reduced tariffs on products from other trade agreement partners, including the EU and Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) members that have completed ratification, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Mexico, Singapore, and Peru.
- The tariff on U.S. cherries (HS 0809.29) will be reduced to 0.8 percent on April 1, 2022. U.S. cherries will enter Japan duty-free as of April 1, 2023.

Japan Conducts Consultation on Imported Food Monitoring and Guidance Plan

- Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has [released](#) the [Reiwa 4th Year Imported Food Monitoring Guidance Plan](#) (in Japanese), covering April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023. [Previous year's plans](#) are available from MHLW for comparison.
- Based on machine translation, Table 1 notes the number of inspections Japan plans to carry out by product category and substance. Of importance to CCB, Japan intends to carry out 19,060 inspections on vegetables, fruits, and other fresh commodities, which is only a 0.3 percent increase in the number of inspection over the previous year. Inspections will test for:
 - Antibacterial substances, etc.
 - Pesticide Residues
 - Additives
 - Pathogenic microorganisms
 - Compliance with food standards, etc.
 - Mycotoxins
 - Genetically modified foods
 - Irradiation

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Canada, UK Launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- On March 24, [Canada](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) (UK) announced they will proceed with negotiations towards a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) beginning on March 28.
- The new FTA would build upon the [Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement](#), which incorporated the *Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* after Brexit. Additionally, the UK is currently in the ascension process to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), of which Canada is a member.
- In 2021, Canada exported 165 metric tons (MT) of fresh, sweet cherries to the UK, its fifth largest cherry export destination. The U.S. exported 188 MT of cherries to the UK, its thirteenth largest cherry export destination in 2021. U.S. cherry exports to the UK are down significantly from past highs of 3,986 MT in 2012 and 1,366 MT in 2017.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Argentina Gazettes Front of Pack Warning Label Regulations

- On March 22, Argentina gazetted [Decree 151/2022](#) regulating [the Law of Promotion of Healthy Foods](#), originally passed on October 27, 2021. [Annex I](#) of the *Decree* lays out the regulation and [Annex II](#) provides technical guidance on the labels. A [press release](#) was published the following day (all documents in Spanish).
- The regulations introduce a mandatory, octagon style Front of Pack Warning Labels (FOPWL) for foods high in added sugar, total fat, saturated fat, sodium, and calories (HFSS foods). Additionally, the regulations have a required warning label for caffeine and sugar and ban complementary nutrition information; the use on packaging of celebrities, athletes, characters targeting children, and other influencers; and participation in contests for foods bearing a warning label.
- The FOPWL will be introduced in two stages. The first stage will be enforced after 15 months (June 22, 2023) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and after nine months (December 22, 2022) for all other companies.

12th WTO Ministerial Conference Dates

- On March 28, the World Trade Organization (WTO) [announced](#) that an “emerging understanding” was forming that the postponed 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) would be rescheduled to June 12 – 15, 2022.
- MC12 had been scheduled to take place November 30 – December 3, 2021 but was canceled due to the outbreak of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 (*BCI Monitor 11-30-21*).