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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**South Korea Signs Resolution to Apply to CPTPP**

- On April 15, the Korean Government signed a written resolution committing to apply to membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). According to an [announcement](#) from the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy, the Korean Government will now proceed with domestic procedures for CPTPP application.
- 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.
- South Korea joins the United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, and Ecuador in seeking accession into the trade pact (*BCI Monitors 2-8-21, 6-8-21, 9-14-21, 9-21-21, 9-28-21*).

**Texas Truck Inspections Led to Problems at the Border**

- On April 6, Texas Governor Greg Abbott [announced](#) that he had [directed the Texas Department of Public Safety \(DPS\)](#) to conduct enhanced safety inspections of vehicles entering the state from Mexico. The inspections led to widespread gridlock and delays at the U.S.-Mexico border. Subsequent backlash and protests led to a shutdown of the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, the largest land crossing for produce in the U.S. on Monday, April 11. The bridge was reopened by Wednesday, April 13.
- The [Fresh Produce Association of the Americas](#) and [International Fresh Produce Association](#) both released statements advocating for normal border access between the U.S. and Mexico as soon as possible.
- Texas ended the enhanced inspections on Friday, April 15.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**EU Publishes Draft Directive on Sustainability and Environmental Claims**

- The European Commission (EC) [adopted a proposed directive](#) (and [Annex](#)) regarding environmental and sustainability labeling, amending *Directives 2005/29/EC* and *2011/83/EU* on unfair commercial practices and consumer rights.
- Of interest to food business operators is the proposal to ban:
  - the display of a sustainability label which is not based on a certification scheme or established by public authorities;
  - labeling products with an environmental claim when the claim only applies to a certain aspect of a product;
  - making generic environmental claims such as 'eco', 'environmentally friendly' or similar when the excellent performance cannot be proven.
- The draft regulation will now be discussed and voted on in the European Parliament and Council. After approval by both legislative bodies, it will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication. Member States will have 18 months from adoption to transpose the Directive into national law and shall apply the provisions 24 months after adoption.
- The proposal is part of the European Green Deal and the EC's goal to become a climate neutral continent by 2050.

## EU Adopts Proposal on Revised Geographic Indication Regulation

- The European Commission [published](#) the [draft regulation](#) (including several [Annexes](#)) on the European Union's geographical indications and quality schemes for agricultural products, repealing [Regulation \(EU\) No 1151/2012](#) on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs and amending several regulations in this field (*BCI Monitor 1-29-21*).
- The draft revision:
  - shortens and simplifies registration procedure;
  - increases online protection;
  - permits including sustainability criteria as part of the product requirements;
  - empowers recognized producer groups to manage their geographical indications;
  - formalizes the cooperation between the European Commission and the European Union Intellectual Property Office in this field; and
  - safeguards the protection of traditional food names.
- Comments on the draft regulation can be submitted through the [European Commission's Have Your Say Portal](#) until June 10, 2022.
- The draft regulation will be discussed and voted on in the European Parliament and Council. After approval by both legislative bodies, it will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Entry into force is still to be determined by the legislative bodies.
- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) published a [GAIN report](#) on this draft regulation.

## Vietnam Publishes Nutrition Labeling Implementing Regulations

- Vietnam recently [published](#) a [draft circular providing guidance on nutritional labeling](#) (both in Vietnamese). The draft guide stipulates the content and method of mandatory nutrition labeling for all packaged foods per Decree [No. 111/2021/ND-CP](#) (in Vietnamese), which entered into force in February (*BCI Monitors 1-4-22, 2-15-22*). An analysis and [unofficial translation](#) of Decree No. 111/2021/ND-CP was provided in a [USDA GAIN report](#).
- Based on machine translation, the draft circular requires foods produced, imported, traded, and circulated in Vietnam to carry nutrition labels by January 1, 2024. "Manually produced" foods will have an extended implementation date of January 1, 2025.
- The draft circular also includes definitions, enforcement responsibilities, reference nutritional values, labeling examples, and requirements for nutritional claims regarding calories, fat, sugar, sodium, and protein.
- Cherries will be exempted from the regulation under the exemption of, "products consisting of a single ingredient."
- The draft circular has also been [notified to the WTO](#). The proposed date of adoption is July 2022, with entry into force on September 15, 2022. Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov) by June 18, 2022.