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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

APHIS Changes Conditions for Cherry Movement in European Cherry Fruit Fly Quarantine Zone

- On April 29, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [announced](#) it is modifying conditions regarding the movement of regulated articles such as cherries within quarantine areas for European Cherry Fruit Fly (ECFF, *Rhagoletis cerasi*).
- The changes, effective immediately, include a new systems approach allowing for the movement of commercially produced cherry fruit outside of the quarantine area without methyl bromide fumigation by focusing on extensive use of float tests.
- Requirements of the updated protocol include entering into a compliance agreement with the state department of agriculture, inclusion of an APHIS verified permit copy with consignment, and specific labeling for boxes or other containers of regulated cherries.

India Publishes Draft Systems Approach Market Access Agreement for Pacific Northwest Cherries

- India [notified](#) the WTO that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has published on its website the [Draft Plant Quarantine \(Regulation of Import into India\) \(Second Amendment\) Order, 2022](#).
- The Order would amend India's *Plant Quarantine Order*, formalizing the approval of a systems approach protocol for the import of sweet cherries from the U.S. Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington) (*BCI Monitor 1-25-22*).
- According to the notice, the date of adoption and publication have yet to be determined. The regulation will enter into force on the date of its publication in India's Official Gazette.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Opens Consultation on Proposed Legislation on New Genomic Techniques

- The European Commission (EC) has opened a [public consultation](#) period regarding its initiative to develop a legal framework for plants produced by new genomic techniques (NGTs) such as targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis.
- In 2018, the EU Court of Justice ruled that organisms produced by targeted mutagenesis are genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and therefore subject to the requirements of EU GMO legislation.
- The initiative aims to tackle issues that have developed as the EU's current legislative framework does not take into account whether NGTs and associated products have the potential to contribute to societal challenges, such as sustainability.
- Comments can be submitted by July 22 by filling out [an online questionnaire](#). The EC will publish a draft regulation in the second quarter of 2023 to start the legislative procedure.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

EU Opens Consultation on Regulation for Sustainable Food Systems

- The European Commission (EC) invites comments on its [regulatory initiative](#) targeting a sustainable EU food system.
- According to the inception impact assessment, the EC is considering:
 - Requiring foods to meet general minimum standards linked to social and environmental aspects
 - Requiring imported foods to meet legitimate and proportionate sustainability requirements in compliance with the WTO
 - Introducing sustainability labels
 - Specifying mandatory sustainability requirements for food procurement in public institutions and schools.
- Comments can be submitted by filling out [an online questionnaire](#) by July 21, 2022. The EC plans to publish a draft regulation by the end of 2023 to start the legislative procedure in Parliament and Council.

Taiwan Announces Decision to Ban PVCs in Food Packaging

- On April 29, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Taiwan [announced](#) it has gazetted [a ban on the use of polyvinyl chloride \(PVC\)](#) (both documents in Chinese) in food packaging effective July 1, 2023 under Article 21 of the [Waste Disposal Act](#). A draft of the ban was published in November 2021 (*BCI Monitor 2-1-22*).

India, UAE Trade Agreement Enters Into Force

- On May 1, the [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) entered into force (*BCI Monitor 3-8-22*).