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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Thailand Requests Importers to Renew Import License for 2023-2025

- Thailand's Food and Drug Administration published a [notice](#) (in Thai), requesting food importers with a valid import license to register online for the business years 2023-2025.
- Submission can be made using the forms uploaded to the [e-submission system](#) under point 4. Importers are advised to collect all documents required for the submission as cited in the notice.

Thailand Gazettes Two Regulations on GMOs

- On June 7, Thailand gazetted [Notification of the Ministry of Public Health \(MOPH\) No. 431 B.E. 2522: Food Derived from Genetically Modified Organisms \(GMOs\)](#) and [Notification of MOPH No. 432 B.E. 2522: Labeling of Foods Derived from GMOs](#) (in Thai). Both regulations were subsequently notified to the WTO (Notification Nos. [431](#) and [432](#)).
- Based on machine translation, [Notification No. 431](#) regulates GMOs generally, including requirements for GMO products to be sold in the country. The regulation bans the production and importation of food derived from GMOs unless the product is listed in Annex 1 (a positive list) or the food has undergone a biosafety assessment. A five-year grace period (December 4, 2027) will be extended to foods on the Positive List or Temporary Approval List.
- Based on machine translation, [Notification No. 432](#) regulates GMO labeling, replacing [Notification No. 251 B.E. 2545 \(2002\)](#). It sets out requirements for when foods are to be labeled as being produced from genetically modified ingredients, bans foods from being labeled "free from genetically modified ingredients" or similar texts, and provides other labeling provisions. Labels that complied with previous regulation will be granted a two-year grace period (December 4, 2024).
- Drafts of the two regulations were analyzed in the most recent [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#) from the USDA/FAS on pages 8 and 9.

Russia Notifies EAEU Regulation on Traceability for Quarantine Products

- On June 16, Russia [notified the WTO](#) of the Eurasian Economic Commission's [draft decision on the Approval of the Procedure for Traceability of Quarantined Products](#) (BCI Monitor 6-14-22).

India Permits Rectification of Some Label Information at Customs

- On June 17, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) [announced](#) that labeling related to nutrition information and date marking can be rectified at customs bound warehouses, before visual inspection or re-inspection, either by affixing a single non-detachable sticker or by any other non-detachable method next to the principal display panel without altering the original label information in any manner.

A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

WTO Ministerial Conference Concludes with Trade Package

- Last week, the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) convened after several years of COVID-19 related delays. On June 17, a [series of key trade initiatives](#) (the "Geneva Package") were announced.
- Included are agreements regarding WTO responses to emergencies, e-commerce, and fisheries subsidies. For agriculture, WTO members agreed [that World Food Programme \(WFP\) food purchases shall be exempt from export bans](#) and published a joint [Declaration on Food Security](#).
- Additionally, Ministers agreed on a process to reform the WTO, with the goal to have a fully and well—functioning dispute settlement system by 2024.

CDFA Removes MedFly Quarantines in Los Angeles and San Bernadino Counties, Upland Area

- On June 19, the [California Department of Agriculture](#) (CDFA) removed the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (MedFly) Quarantine in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, Upland Area.
- As of June 21, no remaining MedFly quarantine boundaries are listed on the CDFA website.