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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Reports for the EU, Japan**

- The USDA recently published its annual reports on the stone fruit industry for the [European Union](#) and [Japan](#).
- European Union:
  - In Marketing Year (MY) 2022/23, total EU cherry production, including both sour and sweet, is forecast to increase by 8.9% year-over-year to 726,550 metric tons (MT). Production growth is attributed to favorable growing conditions in the largest EU-cherry producing states of Poland, Italy, and Greece. Growing area is approximately 405,250 acres, consistent since MY 2020/21.
  - EU cherry consumption is forecast to increase due to higher EU-production and rebounding tourists arrivals.
  - The EU is a net importer of fresh cherries, predominantly sourced from Turkey. Other top exporters to the EU are Serbia, Chile, and Argentina.
  - The export of EU cherries, primarily to the United Kingdom, increased in MY 2021/22 but was lower in April through June of MY 2022/23 compared to the same period the year before.
  - The GAIN report discusses the 2020 French ban on U.S. cherries due to the registered use of dimethoate for U.S. cherries as well as the upcoming EU review of maximum residue limits for phosmet.
- Japan:
  - In MY 2022/23 total Japanese cherry production, including both sour and sweet, is expected to increase by 18.6% year-over-year to 14,000 MT. The increase reflects a rebound after MY 2021/22 production fell by 24% due to frost damage. Long-term cherry production and planted area are expected to decrease due to lack of successors to aging cherry farmers.
  - The U.S. is the predominant supplier of imported cherries, accounting for 92.7% of imports in MY 2021/22.
  - Currently, the tariff on U.S. sweet cherries is 0.8%. On April 1, 2023, the tariff will be eliminated under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA).

**U.S. – Taiwan Initiative on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Negotiations Commence**

- On August 17, 2022, the U.S. and Taiwan [announced](#) the commencement of formal negotiations of the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade and published their [Negotiating Mandate](#) (*BCI Monitors* 6-7-22).
- The Negotiation Mandate includes additional context to originally announced trade areas. Importantly for food and agriculture, the two countries plan to address goods vulnerable to deterioration and release of goods under the topic of trade facilitation.
- In 2022, Taiwan was the fourth largest export market for U.S. fresh sweet cherries (HS 0809.29), with a total of 6,254 metric tons.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### China Publishes Recommended Standard for Recycling Logos

- China's National Standardization Administration [issued](#) *GB/T 18455-2022 Packaging Recycling Marking*, replacing *GB/T 18455-2010*.
- Main revisions are as follows:
  - Added glass and composite-material packaging to the scope of the standard (Section 1)
  - Recycling logos for "steel" (Section 4.4), glass (Section 4.5) and composite-materials (Section 4.6) packaging introduced
  - Logo for biodegradable plastic packaging abolished (previously in section 4.2.2)
  - Recycling logo for "FE"- based packaging changed from square to circle (Section 4.4)
  - Requirements for size, color, and position of the recycling logos added (Section 5 and Annex).
  - Removal of polystyrene (PS) code "06" from list of common plastic codes and abbreviations (Section 4.3.1)
- The recommended standard will apply from February 1, 2023.

### China Invites Comments on Organics and Inspection Regulation

- On August 18, the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) [invited](#) (in Chinese) comments on amendments to several regulations, including the *Administrative Measures for the Certification of Organic Products* and the *Administrative Measures for Food Safety Sampling Inspection*.
- The organic products regulation is updated to replace the "State Certification and Accreditation Administration" with the "State Administration for Market Regulation". The revised regulation also pertains to organic products sold on e-commerce platforms, requiring sellers to provide the platform operator with the certification document and latest status of the certificate.
- The amended food inspection regulation sets out requirements for storing re-inspection samples taken by the competent authority and renames the "Food safety sampling inspection information system" in Article 27 to "National food safety sampling inspection information system".
- Comments can be submitted by email to [fgs@samr.gov.cn](mailto:fgs@samr.gov.cn) by September 18, 2022. Please include the words "Abolition and Amendment of Regulations for Comments" in the subject line.

### Thailand Issues Clarifying Documents Regarding GE Food Regulations

- 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](#)) (*BCI Monitor* 6-21-22).
- On August 4, MOPH published clarifying notifications for both [MOPH No. 431](#) and [MOPH No. 432](#) (both in Thai).
- The clarifying document for MOPH No. 431 includes a summary of the regulation, a list of documents that can be used in consideration of importation of GMOs from the positive list (Annex 1), and a flow chart describing the steps to be taken for GMO product approval. A five-year grace period (December 4, 2027) will be extended to foods on the Positive List or Temporary Approval List.
- The clarifying document for MOPH No. 432 includes a summary of the regulation, examples of different labeling scenarios, and a decision tree diagram regarding different labeling scenarios. Labels that complied with the previous regulation will be granted a two-year grace period (December 4, 2024).

### Thailand Issues Clarifying Notification on Plastic Container Regulation

- In June, Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA) adopted [No. 435 B.E. 2022 on Quality or Standards of Plastic Containers](#) (in Thai) (*BCI Monitor* 2-1-22, 6-28-22).
- In August, Thailand's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) published a [clarifying document](#) (in Thai) providing additional definitions to aide in the understanding of the regulation, including defining qualities for containers, the list of documents or evidence used in safety assessment, and other summary information.

### Thailand Issues Clarification on Regulation Regarding Labeling of Products with “Premium”

- Thailand previously published [Announcement of the Ministry of Public Health \(MOPH\) \(No. 433\) B.E.](#), repealing clause 2 of *Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 365) B.E. 2556* on the requirement to seek approval by the Ministry of Public Health when labeling a product with the term “Premium” (*BCI Monitor* 6-7-22).
- In August, MOPH published a [clarifying document](#) (in Thai) providing additional information on requirements for products labeled with premium terms, including terms Gold, Special, Extra, Supreme, or Selected.

### Wales Notifies Draft Single-Use Plastics Ban

- Wales’s Department for Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs [published \*The draft Environmental Protection \(Single-use Plastic Products\) \(Wales\) \(Bill\)\*](#), banning certain plastic products in line with Wales’s *Wellbeing of Future Generations Act*. Of interest to the California Cherry Board, the draft bill bans oxo-degradable products from the market in Wales.
- The draft bill was also [notified to the WTO](#).
- The United Kingdom published the draft *United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (Exclusions from Market Access Principles: Single-Use Plastics) Regulations 2022* in June 2022 (*BCI Monitor* 6-14-22).
- The SUP ban under section 2 will enter into force on a day to be determined by the Welsh Ministers. The bill is proposed to be adopted in November 2022.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov). The WTO comment period ends on October 16, 2022.