

OCTOBER 4, 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USDA to Hold Public Meeting in Advance of Upcoming Codex Alimentarius Commission Session**
- **CDFA Removes Oriental Fruit Fly Quarantine Boundary**
- **South Korea Ratifies FTAs with Israel, Cambodia; Restarts Negotiations with Ecuador**
- **Taiwan Notifies Draft Amendment to Food Inspection Regulation**
- **South Africa to Put Food Inspections Under New Agency**
- **UK Store Placement Restrictions Enter into Force; Other Restrictions Delayed**
- **India Notifies Draft Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labeling Regulations**

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA to Hold Public Meeting in Advance of Upcoming Codex Alimentarius Commission Session

- The U.S. Codex Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will host a [virtual public meeting](#) on October 26, 2022 at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST.
- The meeting will include a briefing on the U.S. positions in advance of the 45th Session of The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and allow time for public comment. The meeting agenda covers the upcoming session broadly, with discussion on several different Codex committees
- Documents for the upcoming CAC session are [available](#) from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- Attendees may [register for the event](#). Written comments can be sent ahead of the meeting to uscodex@usda.gov.

CDFA Removes Oriental Fruit Fly Quarantine Boundary

- On September 25, the [California Department of Agriculture](#) (CDFA) removed the quarantine area for the Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) in Los Angeles County, North Hills area.
- The quarantine zone was previously established on July 1 (*BCI Monitor 7-5-22*).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Ratifies FTAs with Israel, Cambodia; Restarts Negotiations with Ecuador

- On September 27, South Korea [announced](#) that its Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Israel and Cambodia had been ratified.
- The FTA with Israel was finalized in August 2019. On September 28, Israel [announced](#) the FTA will enter into force on December 1, 2022. The FTA with Cambodia was finalized in February 2021. South Korea is working with Cambodia to ensure the FTA will come into force by the end of the year.
- Additionally, South Korea [re-launched bilateral negotiations](#) with Ecuador towards a Strategic Economic Cooperation Agreement (SECA) after a six-year hiatus. Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are a specific area of interest being negotiated.

Taiwan Notifies Draft Amendment to Food Inspection Regulation

- On September 30, Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration [notified the WTO](#) of a [draft amendment](#) (in Chinese) to the *Administrative Measures for the Inspection, Registration and License Documents of Food and Related Products*. An [unofficial English version](#) of the draft amendment was also provided (*BCI Monitor 9-27-22*).
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is November 29, 2022.

South Africa to Put Food Inspections Under New Agency

- On August 31, South Africa [announced](#) plans to transfer numerous governmental functions, including agricultural inspections, to a new Border Management Agency (BMA). BMA will have responsibility for food safety, biosecurity, and phytosanitary controls in addition to other border enforcement activities.
- A [USDA GAIN report](#) provides information about the change from in-country sources. While BMA will be responsible for the act of inspections, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) will retain power over the policy aspects of inspections. It is not yet clear when the transfer of responsibilities will take place.

UK Store Placement Restrictions Enter into Force; Other Restrictions Delayed

- On October 1, the [Food \(Promotion and Placement\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#) entered into force, restricting store placement and online marketing of certain foods categorized as high in fat, salt, or sugar (HFSS) (*BCI Monitor* 5-17-22, 12-14-21, 7-27-21, 1-5-21).
- On September 30, the United Kingdom (UK) [amended the regulation](#), delaying implementation of related restrictions on the price promotion of HFSS foods for one year, until October 1, 2023.
- Food products affected by the regulation are set out in [Schedule 1](#).

India Notifies Draft Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labeling Regulations

- On September 29, India [notified](#) the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures of draft [Food Safety and Standards \(Labelling & Display\) Amendment Regulations, 2022](#). The draft was notified to the [WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade](#) the previous day (*BCI Monitor* 9-27-22).
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov or the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadlines are November 27 and November 28, 2022 respectively.