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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Extends, Expands Temporary Tariff Exemptions on Numerous Basic Food Products

- On January 6, Mexico [announced](#) and [gazetted](#) a Decree extending temporary import tariff exemptions on numerous food items through December 31, 2023. An unofficial English translation is provided in a recent [USDA GAIN report](#).
- The decree combines and replaces the *Package Against Inflation and High Costs (Pacic)* – which was [announced in May](#) and extended with amendments on [October 19](#) – and the [Opening Agreement against Inflation and Scarcity \(APECIC\)](#) (*BCI Monitor* 5-24-22).
- The October decree extended the tariff exemptions provided the importer can show that it entered into a contract for the goods prior to the February 28 expiration. The newest decree extends all of the tariff exemptions until December 31, 2023 *regardless of contract status*. It further increases the tariff exemptions through April 30, 2024, if:
 - a. the company is registered with the Register of Importers of the Basic Basket; and
 - b. a contract is submitted prior to January 10, 2024.
- As with previous versions, tariff exemptions are not granted to cherries, but are granted to competing fresh fruit including apples, oranges, lemons, and limes. In the January decree, pears have been included for the first time.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Taiwan Adopts Revised Sanitation Standard for Food Contact Materials

- On January 12, Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHW) [notified the WTO](#) that it [adopted](#) the revised *Sanitation Standard for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages*. The regulation and a summary of revisions are available for download via the MHW website.
- The standard was updated to make the provisions of some articles clearer. According to the MHW summary and machine translations, revisions include:
 - Article 1 amends the name of the source law from the *Act Governing Food Sanitation* to the *Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation*.
 - Article 2 addresses recycling and reuse of plastic containers for food packaging. The meaning of this amendment is unclear and requires professional translation.
 - Appendix 2 adds new migration limits associated with plasticizers in plastic food contact materials.
- The standard entered into force on January 11, 2023.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Thailand Notifies Draft Regulation on Plastic Bags for Food

- On January 5, the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) [notified the WTO](#) of its [Draft Ministerial Regulation on Plastic Bags for Food](#) (in Thai), making minor amendments to Thailand's current regulation for plastic bags made from virgin resin as single-layer plastic films. The regulation does not cover plastic bags printed with ink or other plastic bags that are subject to other Thai industrial product standards.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is March 6, 2023. The regulation would enter into force 270 days after its date of adoption.