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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

## Korea Announces Customs Clearance Plan for Imported Foods

- On January 11, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [announced the 2023 Imported Food Customs Clearance Inspection Plan](#) (in Korean). The plan introduces several changes to the customs clearance inspection process, permitted under current regulations. Based on machine translation and clarifications obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the following topics of interest to the California Cherry Board are mentioned in the plan:
  - When selecting products for random inspection in the second half of the year, Korea will implement an "Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Risk Protection System" to focus on inspecting the highest-risk products. 'Risk' determinations will follow current procedures, just on the new AI system.
  - To improve implementation of the Positive List System (PLS), the scope of pesticide residue inspection will be increased for items with increased levels of nonconformity as well as "simple processed agricultural products." Nonconformity assessments will follow current procedures regarding MRL violations and past records. The plan defines "simple processed agricultural products" as processed foods that are 100% agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, that undergo simple processing such as drying (dehydration), cutting, grinding, or pureeing. MFDS may conduct MRL testing on these products to ensure safety.
  - Expansion in the types of inspections that can be outsourced to a private test institution, with the goal of shortening inspection periods to 2-4 days.
- A [draft partial amendment](#) (in Korean) to the *Enforcement Rules of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management* addressing several of the plan's changes was published by MFDS on December 30, 2022. A comment period on the draft amendments is open through February 9, 2023.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

## EU Proposes Amendments to Food Contact Material Allowances

- On January 23, the European Union (EU) [notified the WTO](#) of proposed [draft amendments](#) to Annex I of [Regulation \(EU\) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food](#).
- The amendments reflect new decisions by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and result in adding newly authorized substances, removing the authorization of some substances, modifying some authorizations, and adding or modifying some restrictions placed on groups of substances.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at [us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). The WTO comment deadline is March 23, 2023. The proposed date of publication is April 3, 2023 with an entry into force 20 days after publication.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**