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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chile and U.S. to hold Free Trade Commission Meeting in 2023

- On November 8, the U.S. and Chile [confirmed the countries](#) will hold a Free Trade Commission meeting in 2023. A similar meeting was [last held in 2018](#). The U.S – Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on January 1, 2004.
- There are no details available yet on the scope of discussions to take place next year.
- In 2021, Chile was the largest exporter of fresh sweet cherries to the United States. The U.S. reported importing 7,877 metric tons (MT) of Chilean cherries (HS 0809.29), 48.4% of all imported cherries.

Japan Notifies Proposed Annual Changes to Quarantine Pest Lists

- Japan [notified the WTO](#) if proposed revisions to the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act and Quarantine Pest Lists, and provided a [summary](#) of changes.
- Of potential interest to the California Cherry Board:
 - Extensive reorganization is made to Annex Tables 1-2, 2 and 2-2. Note that additional Declarations on a Phytosanitary Certificate must reference the revised item and Annex Table numbers. The summary document provides a table of these changes.
 - Chile was added as a country where *Eutypa dieback*, *Eutypa lata*, is present. *Prunus* and the United States were already included on the list ([Annexed Table 2-2](#)).
 - Numerous host plants were added or removed for *Xylella fastidiosa* ([Annex Table 2-2](#)).
 - Three provisional quarantine pests (*Emerus tuberculatus*, *Merodon equestris*, and *Syrirta pipiens*) are newly designated as [non-quarantine pests](#).
- The proposed revisions to the non-quarantine pest list will enter into force on the day following the date of publication. All other revisions will enter into force six months after the date of publication.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is January 3, 2023.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Expands Capacity to Irradiate Fruit for Export to U.S.

- Mexico's National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) [published a press release](#) regarding the country's expanded capacity to irradiate fruits for export to the U.S. via a newly SENASICA-certified irradiation plant in McAllen, Texas. SENASICA recently visited the plant and verified that it complies with guidelines established by SENASICA and APHIS in the Operational Work Plan for the import of Mexican products for irradiation in the United States.
- The McAllen Raveam Plant received [USDA certification in April 2022](#), and was formally known as Scantech Sciences.

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Mexico Expands Capacity to Irradiate Fruit for Export to U.S. (Continued)

- The press release also highlights that the government is working to establish an irradiation plant in Chiapas for the export of guava and mango to the U.S.

Brazil Opens Consultation on Draft Extended Producer Responsibility Decrees for Cardboard and Metal Packaging

- On November 3, Brazil's Ministry of Environment [opened two public consultations](#) on extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for [paper and cardboard packaging waste](#) and for [metal packaging waste](#) (all documents in Portuguese), to be implemented independently from the public solid waste management system. Participation in an EPR scheme is required to obtain an import license. Articles 36 through 39 detail the obligations of importers of products and the packaging materials.
- Article 5 allows for two types of schemes: 1) a collective model and 2) individual model. The collective model requires a legal entity to be created for the purpose of structuring and managing the members' responsibilities under this decree. The individual model allows a company to implement its own scheme or to hire a third party.
- Article 51 sets national and regional recycling targets, while Article 52 pertains to the national minimum recycled content targets mandated by *Decree No. 11.043* related to the [National Solid Waste Plan](#) (in Portuguese).
- Article 63 sets packaging design requirements.
- The decree is proposed to enter into force upon publication, with a 2-phase implementation. Phase 1, beginning at entry into force, is a preparation period for all actors. Phase 2, beginning 180 days after entry into force, will see implementation of the new plastic packaging waste collection, recycling, and disposal scheme.
- Comments can be submitted via [Brazil's consultation portal](#) until December 2, 2022.