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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico and Chile Amend Work Agreement for Stone Fruit and Pome Fruit from Chile

- Chile's Association of Fruit Exporters (ASOEX) [reported](#) that Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) and Mexico's National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) have signed an addendum establishing phytosanitary measures for Chilean stone fruit and pome fruit produced, packaged or stored within a quarantine area of 7.2 kilometers (radius) of an outbreak of MedFly (*Ceratitis capitata*). The proscribed cold treatment will allow these previously-prohibited exports to Mexico. Notice of the addendum was published in [SAG Circular No. 278/2022](#) with technical specifications [detailed in the addendum](#) (all documents in Spanish).

China Grants Market Access to Pakistani Fresh Cherries

- China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) published [phytosanitary requirements](#) allowing the import of fresh cherries from Pakistan. To enter China, all fresh cherries from Pakistan must undergo cold treatment.
- Pakistan is not a major exporter of fresh cherries (HS 0809.29). In 2021, UN Comtrade reported that Pakistan exported six metric tons (MT) of fresh sweet cherries, exclusively to the United Arab Emirates.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. Raises Multiple Specific Trade Concerns at WTO

- This week, the U.S. submitted several Specific Trade Concerns to the WTO of potential relevance to the CCB, including the following:
- With the European Union, the U.S. raised concerns over [maximum residue levels \(MRLs\) and pesticide policies](#) and the use of [import pesticide tolerances to achieve environmental outcomes in third countries](#), arguing that the policies are trade restrictive.
- The U.S. [raised concerns](#) regarding China's continued lack of response to U.S. requests for scientific justification of how Chinese Decrees 248 and 249 will contribute to food safety and public health.
 - Decree 248 requires all foreign food manufacturers, processors, and storage facilities of specified food products to register with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), while Decree 249 covers a broad range of requirements on food exports to China, including overseas facilities registration, record filing by importers and exporters, quarantine and inspection, and product labeling. Both decrees entered into force on January 1, 2022.
 - The U.S. highlighted the lack of guidance and inconsistencies in implementation and enforcement of the decrees, which has led to confusion for exporters and trade disruptions.
- The U.S. additionally raised concern with [China's actions related to COVID-19 that affect trade in food and agricultural products](#).
- With India, the U.S. continues to raise concern regarding the [requirement of non-GM \(genetically modified origin\) and GM-free certificates for certain agricultural products](#), not including cherries.

UK Updates Guidance on Phytosanitary Certificates

- On November 17, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and its Animal and Plant Health Agency [clarified](#) that countries' phytosanitary certificates (PC) must be issued no more than 14 days before the consignment is dispatched from the exporting country, and that the certificate is not required to be signed by someone in the inspecting plant health authority within the same 14-day period. The [import plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain and Northern Ireland website](#) was updated accordingly.

Uruguay to Apply to CPTPP

- Uruguay's president [announced](#) that the country will be applying for membership to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on December 1.
- The CPTPP is currently in force in Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, and will enter into force for Malaysia on November 29. Brunei and Chile are signatories to the trade deal but have not yet ratified it. Chile's congress approved the CPTPP in October and awaits only presidential approval for ratification.
- The United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Ecuador, and Costa Rica have all officially applied to join the CPTPP. In April 2022, South Korea signed a resolution to join CPTPP, but has yet to formally apply. (*BCI Monitors 2-8-21, 6-8-21, 9-14-21, 9-21-21, 9-28-21, 4-19-22, 8-16-22, 10-11-22*).
- According to the U.S. Department of Commerce [country profile](#), Uruguay maintains free trade agreements with Mexico, Chile, the Andean Community of Nations (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru), the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), and the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Eswatini). Uruguay is a member of Mercosur, which includes Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, and is also a member of ALADI, which includes general tariff preferences for all South American countries plus Cuba, Mexico, and Panama.