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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Chilean Cherry Industry Reports Increase in Exports to the U.S.

- On January 31, the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association published a [press release](#) noting that Chile has exported 58% more cherries by volume to the United States during their current export season as compared to the same time last season.
- The press release also describes the Chilean cherry promotions used in the U.S. since late December. It highlights the use of over 1,000 display bins across four large retail chains, a promotional strategy that they plan to expand next year.
- According to U.S. Census Bureau data, accessed via Trade Data Monitor, U.S. cherry imports from Chile were 5,931 metric tons (MT) in December 2022, an increase of 38% as compared to December 2021. January import data is not yet available. Annual U.S. cherry imports from Chile have grown rapidly in recent years, from 4,302 MT in 2020, to 7,877 MT in 2021, and further to 15,002 MT in 2022.

USDA to Hold Public Meeting in Advance of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

- The U.S. Codex Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will host a virtual public meeting on March 23, 2023 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm EST.
- The meeting will include a briefing on draft U.S. positions ahead of the 26th session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) and allow time for public comment. A list of agenda items to be discussed is included in the [announcement](#).
- Attendees [may register for the event](#). Written comments can be sent ahead of the meeting to michelle.catlin@usda.gov.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Peru, Hong Kong Begin Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- On February 3, Peru [announced](#) (in Spanish) that its first round of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with Hong Kong. Peru highlighted negotiations during this round focused on market access, rules of origin, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, among other topics.
- Of note, Hong Kong imports sweet cherries (HS 0809.29) tariff-free under its Most Favored Nation rate. In 2022, Hong Kong reported importing 61 metric tons (MT) of cherries from Peru. The U.S. was the second largest provider of cherries to Hong Kong at 2,219 MT. Import data was sourced from Hong Kong Census and Trade via Trade Data Monitor (TDM).

China's Interim Measures on the Quality and Safety Supervision of Food Related Products Enters into Force

- On March 1, China's [Decree No. 62 of the SAMR on the Interim Measures on the Quality and Safety Supervision and Administration of Food Related Product](#) (in Chinese) will enter into force (*BCI Monitor 10-18-22*).
- The regulation applies not to food, but to packaging materials, containers, detergents, disinfectants used for food, and tools and equipment used for food production and operation (Article 34). It specifies the responsibilities of manufacturers, sellers, and regulators in the production, sale, and supervision of food-related products within China. The law does not explicitly mention imports.

China Draft Food Safety Standards

- China's Secretariat of National Food Safety Standard Review Committee [announced](#) that [38 Draft National Food Safety Standards](#) are available for comment. Draft standards include (all documents in Chinese):
 - [Amendments to GB 9685-2016 Additives for Food Contact Materials and Articles](#)
 - [Revised nitrite limits in food](#)
 - Standards for several specific food additives and fortification ingredients
 - Several methods for physical and chemical testing of foods, including for nutrient content, contaminants, and migration from food packaging materials
 - Several methods for microbiological testing of foods, including for bacteria used in foods and for coliform, e. coli, listeria monocytogenes, mycotoxin, and norovirus.
- Comments are due on the draft standards by March 20, 2023.