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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Peru to Pursue Commercial Cherry Production

- At Fruit Logistica, the Peruvian Export and Tourism Commission (PROMPERÚ) [announced](#) (in Spanish) that cherries were among its newest offerings.
- In October 2022, the National Agricultural Health Service of Peru (SENASA) [published a list](#) (in Spanish) of Chilean nurseries permitted to export cherry propagation material to Peru between 2021 and 2022.
- A [Peruvian news source](#) (in Spanish) suggests that while there is not yet commercial production of cherries in Peru, 2024 would be an important year in selecting varieties suited to Peru.
- In recent years, Peruvian agricultural exports have increased rapidly. In 2009 Peru reported no blueberry exports, but now is the top global exporter. Exports of table grapes have increased 39% between 2018 and 2022 to 558,900 metric tons.

Canada, Mexico Implement Organic Equivalency Arrangement

- Canada [announced](#) the implementation of the [Canada-Mexico Organic Equivalency Arrangement](#), effective February 15, 2023.
- Under organic equivalency arrangements, products certified as organic in one country may be labeled and sold as organic in the other country without any additional certification requirements.
- The United States and Canada established an organic equivalency arrangement in 2009. The U.S. and Canada both also maintain organic equivalency arrangements with the European Union, Japan, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.
- The U.S. and Mexico do not have an organic equivalency arrangement.
- U.S. global exports of organic food were valued at \$683 million in 2019, including approximately \$118 million to Mexico. The overall value of Canada's organic food exports in 2019 was \$461 million.

China Notifies Draft Excessive Packaging Standard

- On February 3, China's State Administration for Market Regulation [notified the WTO](#) of its draft [National Standard of the P.R.C., GB XXXXXX—202X Requirements of Restricting Excessive Package—Edible Agricultural Products](#) (in Chinese). This draft regulation was originally published by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MOA) on November 21, 2022 (*BCI Monitor 11-29-22*).
- On February 22, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) also published a [GAIN report](#) that includes an unofficial English translation of the regulation.
- Based on the unofficial translation, the standard specifies the requirements restricting excessive packaging for fresh edible agricultural products, including fruit. It covers the four requirements of interspace ratios, packaging layers, packaging costs and packaging weight ratios, and describes the detection methods and the determination rules corresponding to the above requirements.

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

China Notifies Draft Excessive Packaging Standard (continued)

- Excessive packaging is defined as packages with interspace ratio, layers, cost, and weight ratios exceeding the requirements.
 - Article 4.1 and Table 1 specify the net weight (in kg) and corresponding packaging interspace ratios (IRN) for products. If the packaging contains two or more types of products, the maximum volume under the corresponding net weight is used.
 - Article 4.2 describes packaging layers, specifying that no more than three layers should be used for fruit.
 - Article 5 specifies sampling, measuring, and package calculation requirements.
 - According to Article 6, if the packaging commodity does not meet the requirements stipulated in Article 4, it shall be judged as excessive packaging.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is April 4, 2023. The standard would enter into force 12 months after approval.

China Repeals COVID-19 Declaration Requirements for Non-Cold Chain Imports

- On February 21, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) *published [General Administration of Customs Announcement No. 14 of 2023 \(Announcement on Adjusting the Declaration Requirements for Customs Declaration Forms for Imported Goods\)](#)* (in Chinese), repealing Special Announcement No. 88 of September 19, 2022 (*BCI Monitor 9-27-22*).
- Based on machine translation, the announcement cancels the requirement for additional COVID-19 customs declarations for importers or consignees of non-cold chain products, including:
 - No longer requiring the declaration 'preventive disinfection has been implemented'
 - No longer requiring that the 'departure/shipping date' be filled
- The announcement enters into force on March 1, 2023.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Prohibits Import of Products Produced with Forced Labor

- On February 17, Mexico published the *[Resolution that Establishes the Merchandise whose Importation is Subject to Regulation by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare](#)* (in Spanish) in its Official Gazette, prohibiting the import of products produced in whole or in part with forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory child labor.
- Mexico issued this resolution to comply with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.
- The resolution enters into force May 18, 2023.

EU Notifies Draft Revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

- On February 27, the European Union (EU) *[notified the WTO](#)* of a *[proposal for a regulation](#)* on packaging and packaging waste (including an Annex), amending *Regulation (EU) 2019/1020* and *Directive (EU) 2019/904*, and repealing *Directive 94/62/EC* (*BCI Monitor 12-6-22*).
- The draft regulation introduces sustainability requirements for placing packaging on the EU market related to:
 - composition,
 - design (with a focus on packaging minimization),
 - recyclability,
 - recycled plastic content,
 - compostability, and
 - reusable packaging.
- The draft regulation is currently being discussed in the European Parliament and Council and will then be voted on in each legislative body. According to the WTO notice, the EU expects adoption of the final regulation in 2025.

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EU Notifies Draft Revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (continued)

- The regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply 12 months after entry into force, with the following exemptions of interest to CCB:
 - Article 8 (Compostable packaging) will be applied 24 months after entry into force.
 - Article 11(1) (Labeling: Material composition) will be applied 42 months after entry into force.
 - Article 11(2) (Labeling: Reusability) will be applied 48 months after entry into force.
 - [Article 8\(2\) of Directive 94/62/EC](#) on the identification system for packaging materials will apply until 42 months after the date of entry into force.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is May 28, 2023. The domestic consultation, available through the [EC's Have Your Say Portal](#), closes on April 24, 2023.