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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Amends Country of Origin Labeling Requirements for Imported Food

- On May 4, South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) [published](#) (in Korean) a draft amendment to the *Enforcement Rules of the Act on the Labeling of Origin of Agricultural and Fishery Products*, amending the requirements for country of origin labeling (COOL).
- Under the current regulations, imported food products are required to display COOL in various font sizes depending on the size of the packaging (for example, if the packaging surface area exceeds 3,000 cm², the font must be 20 points or more).
- Under the amended rules, however, all imported food will be required to display the COOL in a 10-point font size regardless of the packaging surface area. This uniform font size would align imported food's COOL with the current South Korean domestic COOL font point size.
- The draft amendment also clarifies the COOL regulations for online sales, revising the current rules of displaying the COOL "around the product name or price tag" to displaying "next to, above, or below the price tag".
- Comments are due June 19, 2023, and can be submitted through the [online portal](#).

South Africa Publishes Draft Amendment to EPR Regulations

- On May 9, South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) [published](#) DFFE No. 3388 [Proposed Amendments To The Regulations and Notices Regarding Extended Producer Responsibility, 2020](#). The draft amendments provide technical clarifications of South Africa's EPR regulations and associated notices, especially related to recycled content, and reuse and recycling targets.
- Of note, the draft amendments to [DFFE No. 1187 National Environmental Management: Waste Act \(59/2008\): Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Paper, Packaging and Some Single Use Products](#) of November 5, 2020 replace Annexure 1 with an updated table of products and targets.
 - The updated table provides a more detailed breakdown of packaging categories, in particular for glass packaging.
 - It also changes some minimum recycled content, recycling, and reuse targets for specific material types.
- Comments are due by June 5, 2023, and can be sent to shemraj@dfpe.gov.za.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

Amendments to Hong Kong's Hazardous Substances in Food Regulations Enter Into Force

- On June 1, the first phase of Hong Kong's [Harmful Substances in Food \(Amendment\) Regulations](#) will enter into force (*BCI Monitors 12-15-20, 8-3-21*).
- Provisions entering into force include adjustments from the first amendment, [Harmful Substances in Food \(Amendment\) Regulation 2021](#):
 - Updates the maximum permitted concentration of *aflatoxins*, *erucic acid*, and *melamine* in food.
 - Introduces maximum levels for *benzo[a]pyrene*, *deoxynivalenol*, *glycidyl fatty acid esters*, *patulin*, and *3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol* in food.
- [Updated guidelines](#) and an [FAQ document](#) provide additional information (*BCI Monitor 2-1-22*).

Australian Biosecurity Webinar on Sustainable Funding

- The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) [announced](#) a webinar to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 on the long-term sustainable funding goals for the country's biosecurity system, which have been announced as part of the fiscal year 2023-24 federal budget. An initial webinar on the topic was held on May 19, and is [available online](#).
- As [part of the sustainable funding plan](#), there [will be an increase of fees](#) expected on July 1, 2023 to importers including raising the Full Import Declaration fee for goods imported via air by \$5 to \$43 per declaration and increasing a commercial vessel arrival charge by \$300 to \$1,354. The government will also look into applying an import levy.
- Australia is also increasing the budget of new biosecurity investment by over AUD\$260 million per year, reaching over AUD\$1 billion.
- A [consultation](#) on the topic was published last November (*BCI Monitor 11-8-22*).