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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreements Enter Into Force

- The [UK-Australia](#) and [UK-New Zealand](#) Free Trade Agreements (tariff schedules linked) [became effective](#) on June 1st. The agreements had been concluded in October and December 2021, respectively (*BCI Monitor* 10-26-21, 12-21-21). The entry into force has been announced by the [UK](#), [Australia](#), and [New Zealand](#).
- Cherries from [Australia](#) enter the UK duty free immediately, removing the six percent most favored nation (MFN) tariff previously applied from June 16 - July 15, and twelve percent MFN tariff applied for the remainder of the year. The same MFN tariff applied to cherries from New Zealand was reduced upon entry into force to 4.5% from June 16 – July 15 and to 9% during the remainder of the year, and will be gradually phased out by January 1, 2026.

South Korea Proposes Allowing Some Food Labeling to be Electronic

- On June 6, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [notified the WTO](#) of draft [Bill Number 22240 \(May 23, 2023\) Proposed Revision of the "Act on Labelling and Advertising of Foods"](#) (in Korean), allowing some food labeling information to be provided in an electronic format, such as a barcode.
- According to machine translation, the draft amendment allows for the following information to be provided through electronic labeling:
 - Food products:
 - Product name
 - Contents
 - Allergens
 - Precautions for consumer safety
 - Date of manufacture and expiration date
 - Sales office name
 - Item report number – Due to the poor quality of machine translation of this term, exporters are urged to work with their importers to confirm the meaning
 - Containers, packaging, and utensils:
 - Material characteristics
 - Sales office name and location
 - Precautions for Consumer Safety
 - A symbol representing "food" or "food utensils"
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is August 5, 2023.
- This amendment will enter into force six months after promulgation.

**A REPORT FOR
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General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

EU Notifies Draft Green Claims Directive to WTO

- On May 31, the European Union (EU) [notified the WTO](#) of its [proposal for a Directive on Green Claims](#), regulating the use of voluntary, explicit claims about environmental impacts of a product, service, or trader itself (*BCI Monitor* 3-28-23).
- The Directive will apply to imported and domestically produced products and requires Member States to verify that claims are substantiated with scientific evidence which has identified all relevant environmental impacts and any trade-offs between them.
- The EU provides more information on a [webpage](#) dedicated to green claims, through an [FAQ](#) and in a [factsheet](#).
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is August 29, 2023.
- After approval by the European Parliament and Council, the directive will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication, be transposed by the EU Member States within 18 months after entry into force, and be effective in the Member States 24 months after entry into force.