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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**South Korea to Introduce Electronic Document Inspections for Imported Foods**

- On June 14, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) published [Public Notice No. 2023-281](#) on a draft partial revision of the [enforcement rules](#) of the [Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management](#) regarding Article 20-2, allowing the use of electronic inspection of import declaration documents for low-risk, repeatedly-imported foods.
- When adopted, it will allow for the review of import declaration documents to expand from only business hours to 24 hours a day, 356 days a year.
- If adopted, automatic/electronic inspections for qualifying agricultural, forest, fishery, and livestock projects will enter into force on December 1, 2023. Processed food and other products will enter into force on June 1, 2024.
- Comments can be submitted through July 24, 2023 via email to [namkung01@korea.kr](mailto:namkung01@korea.kr).

**EU Publishes Proposal for Regulation of New Genomic Techniques**

- On July 5, the European Commission (EC) published a [Proposal for a new Regulation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques](#) and accompanying [Annex](#).
- This follows the Commission's public consultation in 2022 on its initiative to develop a legal framework for plants produced by new genomic techniques (NGT) (*BCI Monitor* 5-3-22). The EC has noted that updated regulations for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) which account specifically for NGTs have the potential to contribute to challenges regarding sustainable agriculture.
- The proposal creates a legal framework for plants produced by new genomic techniques (NGT), namely mutagenesis and cisgenesis, by establishing two pathways for NGT plants to be placed on the market: 1) a verification procedure for NGT plants that could also occur naturally or by conventional breeding (category 1 NGT plants); and 2) application of current GMO legislation for all other NGT plants (category 2 NGT plants).
- [Additional information](#) regarding the proposal, including a factsheet and coverage of frequently asked questions, is provided by the European Commission.
- Before becoming law, the Regulation must be adopted by the Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, following the European Union's legislative procedure.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

**Bryant Christie Inc. – Seattle**

1418 Third Avenue, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: (206) 292-6340 Fax: (206) 292-6341

**Bryant Christie Inc. – Sacramento**

2005 "I" Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Phone: (916) 492-7062 Fax: (916) 492-7061

## General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

### UK Publishes Retained EU Law Act 2023

- On June 29, the United Kingdom's (UK) *Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill 2023* received royal assent, becoming the [\*Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023\*](#). The bill was introduced in Parliament in September 2022 (*BCI Monitor* 10-11-22).
- The UK provides information about the status of individual Retained EU Laws (REULs) in a [public dashboard](#).
- Section 1 of the Act, which entered into force on day the Act was passed, will automatically revoke (or "sunset") hundreds of retained European Union (EU) laws by the end of 2023. Schedule 1 of the Act included a [list of the affected laws](#).
- Reasons for sunseting a regulation under the authority of FSA or DEFRA may be:
  - Main/principal regulations are already repealed.
  - Regulations are inoperable as other regulations or domestic regulations have been repealed.
  - Regulations have been superseded.
  - Regulation relates to a requirement/scheme/agreement which is no longer in operation or is no longer relevant to the UK.
- The Act also formally abolishes the special status of EU law and other principles of EU law at the end of 2023, renames remaining retained laws as "assimilated law", and enables the replacement or updating of certain laws by the UK.

### Taiwan Ban of PVCs in Food Packaging Enters Into Force

- On July 1, Taiwan's measure [\*Restriction on the Production, Importation and Sales of Plate Packaging Material Containing Polyvinyl Chloride \(PVC\), Designated Recyclable Containers and Non-plate Disposable Tableware Containers\*](#) under Article 21 of the *Waste Disposal Act*, banning the use of PVC in food packaging, entered into force (*BCI Monitors* 5-3-22, 6-7-22).
- Only products imported or manufactured before July 1 will be allowed for sale.