

JULY 18, 2023

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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

## UK Accession Agreement to CPTPP Signed

- On July 16, the United Kingdom (UK) [signed](#) the [\*Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership\*](#) (CPTPP). This follows the conclusion of negotiations in March 2023 (*BCI Monitor* 4-4-23).
- The Protocol formalizes the terms of the UK's membership in the CPTPP. It outlines UK-related provisions applicable to specific chapters, details the UK's market access offer to existing members, and notes relevant changes to the corresponding offers of the existing members.
- The UK Government provides a collection of documents with [information regarding the UK's accession to the CPTPP](#). Over 99% of current UK goods exports to CPTPP member countries will be eligible for zero tariffs, and while the UK has existing FTAs with most CPTPP members, it will mark new FTAs for the UK with Malaysia and Brunei.
- The UK applies a 12% Most Favored Nation tariff on fresh cherries (HS 0809.29), including U.S. cherries. CPTPP offers duty free entry to the UK for Chilean and Canadian cherries; however, these countries already enjoy duty-free access under bilateral free trade agreements with the UK. In 2022, the UK imported 14,895 MT of cherries and the top five origins, in order, were Spain, Chile, Greece, South Africa, and Argentina. The UK imported 54 MT of cherries from the U.S. in 2022, but previously imported in larger quantities including a high of 3,736 MT in 2012.
- The UK and existing CPTPP members agreed to implement the "catch up" principle on CPTPP members' tariff staging, which means the UK will benefit from the same reduced tariffs that all other CPTPP members do despite joining the agreement in different years.
- The CPTPP is currently in force in Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The UK and the CPTPP members must complete their domestic legislative processes to ratify the Accession Protocol before the agreement enters into force for the UK. The UK Government expects this to happen in the second half of 2024.
- In June, the U.S. Congressional Research Service updated the [CPTPP: Overview and Issues for Congress](#) report, which provides an overview of the trade agreement and related issues for consideration with regard to U.S. trade policy with CPTPP members.

**A REPORT FOR  
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CHERRY BOARD**

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## General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

### New Zealand Imported Food Notices Enter Into Force

- New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries announced the entry into force of two notices on imported food (*BCI Monitor* 7-12-22).
- On February 1, [Food Notice: Laboratories Approved for Testing Imported Food](#) entered into force and lists all laboratories approved for testing imported food.
- On August 1, [Food Notice: Requirements for Registered Food Importers and Imported Food for Sale](#) will enter into force. New Zealand Food Safety prepared a [summary of changes and review of comments](#) from the consultation. The new notice:
  - Adds definitions for "New Zealand Importer Assurance (NZIA)" and "registered food importer".
  - Adds waste and deteriorated and contaminated food to the list of potential sources of contamination.
  - Removes the phrase "free from waste" and adds "kept clean and in a tidy condition" to the list of requirements for places where imported food must be stored.
  - Clarifies and re-words that access must be provided to entire consignments requiring inspection and that the location does not compromise the food's safety.
  - Reinstates NZIA as a clearance requirement for a registered food importer.
  - Clarifies what importers need to do when two or more clearance requirement options are provided (in Schedules 1 and 2).
- Adds "documented evidence" to Schedule 2, Column C to reflect current practice. Laboratory test results confirming that a consignment has been tested and meets the E. coli criteria, issued by overseas laboratories accredited to *ISO/IEC 17025* are accepted documented evidence for clearance.