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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

New Zealand Notifies Update to Import Standard for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- On September 19, New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) notified the WTO regarding proposed updates of MPI [Standard 152.02: Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables into New Zealand](#).
- Proposed changes are highlighted within the document. According to the related [MPI Risk Management Proposal](#), the changes update section 2.3 of the Standard (page 17) to clarify requirements during pre-export phytosanitary inspection in alignment with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 31 on methodologies for sampling of consignments. MPI notes the updates clarify existing expectations which New Zealand's trading partners are already aware of and meeting.
- The proposed date of adoption, publication, and entry into force is December 3, 2023.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is October 28, 2023.

China Publishes Excessive Packaging Standard for Agricultural Products

- On September 8, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MOA) announced (in Chinese) *GB 43284-2023 Requirements of restricting excessive package—Fresh edible agricultural products (BCI Monitor 11-29-22, 2-24-23)*. The text should be published within 20 days of the announcement and was not yet available as of September 19, 2023.
- A draft standard (unofficial translation by USDA FAS linked) was notified to the WTO in February 2023. Based on the unofficial translation, the draft 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.
- Please note that the official translation of the title now includes the term "Fresh".
- The standard enters into force on April 1, 2024.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Argentina Passes Several Joint Resolutions Relating to Containers and Utensils for Food Use

- During Ordinary Meeting No. 131 of the National Food Commission (CONAL), Argentina passed a raft of Joint Resolutions regarding containers and utensils meant for food use.
- [Joint Resolution No. 25](#), passed September 8, 2023, incorporates Article 184 into the Argentine Food Code, setting definitions and labeling requirements for containers and utensils in contact with food. This will enter into force 730 days following publication in the Official Bulletin.

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Argentina Passes Several Joint Resolutions Relating to Containers and Utensils for Food Use (Continued)

- [Joint Resolution No. 24](#), passed September 6, 2023, incorporates Article 20 into the Argentine Food Code, setting good manufacturing practices for containers and utensils in contact with food. This will enter into force 365 days following publication in the Official Bulletin.
- [Joint Resolution No. 23](#), passed September 6, 2023, Incorporates Article 17 into the Argentine Food Code, requiring that establishments that produce containers and utensils in contact with food have a Technical Director. This will enter into force 365 days following publication in the Official Bulletin.