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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Implements Operational Regulations for Electronic Document Inspection of Imported Food

- On October 18, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) published [*Regulation No. 198*](#) (in Korean) regarding the error correction in automated import declarations for food.
- The regulation applies to Article 20-2 of the [*Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management*](#) (in Korean) and establishes the process for management of the electronic import declaration information system, including the processes for correcting errors to declarations prior to inspection and an annual review of the automated electronic system.
- In June, 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 (links in Korean). Automatic electronic inspections for qualifying agricultural, forest, fishery, and livestock projects will enter into force on December 1, 2023, and for processed food and other products on June 1, 2024 (*BCI Monitor 7-5-23*).
- The regulation entered into force on the date of its publication.

USDA Publishes Translation of China's Standard on Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products

- On October 17, USDA FAS published an unofficial [*translation*](#) of *GB 43284-2023 National Standard for Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products* (*BCI Monitors 9-19-23, 2-28-23*).
- The Standard is the first mandatory national standard that focuses on technical requirements and testing determination of excessive packaging for edible agricultural products.
- The finalized standard features several changes from the draft standard notified to the WTO in February. The USDA translation notes the following additions:
 - The finalized standard includes examples of fresh agricultural products such as vegetables, fruits, livestock, poultry meat, aquatic products, and eggs.
 - References are added from *GB 23350-2021* defining sales packaging, excessive packaging, interspace ratio, packaging layers and necessary spatial coefficient of a commodity with different calculation methods.
 - Two additional tables and an appendix were added listing requirements for packaging layers, necessary spatial coefficient, and packaging costs for different categories of fresh edible products.
- The standard will enter into force April 1, 2024.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes Translation of China's Update to Food Safety Standards for Packaging Materials

- On October 17, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [published](#) an unofficial translation of the Chinese National Health Commission's announcement from September 25 regarding updated and amended National Food Safety Standards (*BCI Monitor 9-26-23*). The report only translates the announcement; FAS informs that the full text standards (in Chinese) can be downloaded from [Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Center \(Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs\)](#).
- The list includes the following specific standards of interest for food packaging:
 - *GB 4806.7-2023 National food safety standard for plastic and plastic food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.9-2023 National food safety standard for metal and metal food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.11-2023 National food safety standard for rubber and rubber food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.14-2023 National food safety standard for inks and ink food contact material*
- The standards enter into force on March 6, 2024.

China Opens Consultation on Food Contact Material Standards

- On October 18, China's Department of Food Safety Standards, Monitoring and Evaluation released [Food Standard Secret Issue No. 9 of 2023](#) on a "Letter from the Secretariat of the National Food Safety Standards Review Committee soliciting opinions on 11 national food safety standards (draft for comments)..."
- Draft standards of potential interest to the CCB include revised standards for general safety requirements for food contact materials and products.
- Comments are due by December 15, 2023, and can be submitted online via China's [National Food Safety Standards Management Information System](#).