

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Mexico Notifies Updated Phytosanitary Requirements for Light Brown Apple Moth Hosts from U.S.**

- On November 8, Mexico's National Health, Safety and Quality Service Agri-food (SENASICA) [notified](#) (in Spanish) the WTO regarding modifications to the phytosanitary requirements for the import of hosts of light brown apple moth (LBAM; *Epiphyas postvittana*) from the U.S., including cherries.
- The change is due to the reclassification of LBAM in the U.S. as a non-quarantine pest. According to machine translation, Mexico agreed to modify the phytosanitary requirements for import of LBAM hosts into Mexico by changing the additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate to "The product was inspected and found free of any biological state of *Epiphyas postvittana*."
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at [us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). The WTO comment deadline is January 7, 2024.

**UK Publishes Import Risk Categories for Plant Products under BTOM**

- On November 9, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [published](#) its [risk categories for plants and plant products imports from non-EU countries to Great Britain](#) under its new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) framework for import controls and border biosecurity regime (*BCI Monitors 4-14-23, 8-29-23*).
- Plant products have been categorized into low, medium, and high risk categories with varying requirements. The categories have not been aligned to specific commodity codes. Businesses must identify the BTOM risk category for the plant product they are exporting to Great Britain and follow the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) rules for that risk category.
- The plant products listed do not specify between fresh, frozen, or processed products. Potential products rated medium risk of interest to the CCB include:
  - Cherries
- BTOM medium risk categorized products require a phytosanitary certificate (PC) and pre-notification made on IPAFFS.
- BTOM low risk categorized plant products include any plant or plant product specified within the meaning of *Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031* and country combination not mentioned in the prohibited, high, or medium risk categories. Beginning January 2024, the requirements for import controls on certain low risk plants and plant products will start to be removed.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**APHIS Publishes Dates for Upcoming U.S.-Mexico Plant Bilateral**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) updated its Plant Health Technical Bilateral Meetings [webpage](#).
- The date of the U.S.-Mexico Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been scheduled for December 5, 2023, in Mexico. Contact Amanda Elkhateeb for details at [amanda.m.elkhateeb@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.m.elkhateeb@usda.gov).

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### USDA Requests Information for Specialty Crops Competitiveness Initiative

- As part of USDA's new Specialty Crops Competitiveness Initiative (SCCI), on November 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture [published](#) in the Federal Register a request for information from stakeholders in the specialty crops industry on how USDA can better administratively support the industry's competitiveness.
- USDA is seeking information on industry challenges, non-financial resources that could be useful, and input on existing (not new) programs, which can be seen at the new [Specialty Crop Resources webpage](#). USDA is seeking information on how to:
  - Support the industry's domestic marketing/consumption
  - Support international competitiveness and export success
  - Support, enhance, or adapt research
  - Adapt programs to address current and future challenges or improve industry competitiveness
  - Increase producer's awareness and access to USDA programs
- Comments are due by March 8, 2024, and can be submitted via the [Federal Rulemaking Portal](#).